



4-Page Special Issue Inside

24 PAGES; PRICE 200 RIALS

VOL. XVIII; No. 150; THURSDAY OCTOBER 3, 1996; MEHR 12, 1375; JAMADIAL-AWAL 19, 1417

Security Council Permanently Lifts Bosnian Sanctions

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Security Council on Tuesday permanently lifted sanctions against Belgrade and the Bosnian Serbs, signaling the end of punitive measures against the former Yugoslavia.

The 15-member council's unanimous decision was to take effect immediately.

But the resolution also provides for the reimposition of the sanctions "if any party fails significantly to meet its obligations under the peace agreement" which ended the 3 1/2-year old Bosnian war.

(Contd on Pg. 22)

EU Ups Stakes in Dispute With U.S. Over Trade Sanctions

LUXEMBOURG – The European Union Tuesday stepped up its fight with the United States over legislation that punishes foreign companies dealing with Cuba, Libya and Iran.

The 15 EU foreign ministers reversed an earlier decision to postpone action and agreed to ask the World Trade Organization to overrule the U.S. Helms-Burton Act, which seeks to penalize foreign companies investing in Cuba.

The EU will also contest the d'Amato Act, which allows the United States to impose sanctions on foreign companies making energy investments in Iran and Libya.

Although the EU request to launch a formal complaint at the WTO could come as early as Oct. 16, the U.S. administration can still delay a hearing at the global trade watchdog until after the Nov. 5 presidential elections.

"There is no possibility of the panel actually meeting until later in November after the American elections," British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said.

"I hope we can settle this amicably, but the contentious phase has started as of now," said his French counterpart Herve de Charette.

EU foreign trade commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said the Europeans did not question the U.S. goal of promoting Cuban democracy and combating terrorism. But he said the means were illegal and unacceptable in the global economy.

The Helms-Burton Law allows U.S. companies or citizens to sue foreign companies that benefit from property in Cuba confiscated after Fidel Castro seized power in 1959.

Rifkind stressed the dispute was not with the Clinton administration, which has delayed the most controversial parts of the law

(Contd on Pg. 22)

Chernomyrdin Stresses Russian 'No' to NATO Enlargement

GENEVA – Russia reaffirmed in strong terms here Tuesday its hostility to NATO's expansion into the former Soviet bloc and warned its position on the issue would not change..

"We must do everything to maintain the situation as it is on the European continent, and we must *not gamble with these questions* now," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said after talks with Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti.

"We are against NATO's enlargement to the east, particularly in as far as military and defensive issues are concerned," he said, answering questions from journalists.

Chernomyrdin said Moscow's position on NATO was well known.

"We will not stray, we will stick to our line and continue to do so," he said, adding there should be no return to a position of confrontation as in the past.

"We think that there is no immediate urgency in enlarging. We must work, get to know each other within the framwork of cooperation, bilateral relations," Chernomyrdin said.

(Contd on Pg. 22)

Warlord's Forces Control Strategic Tunnel



SALANG, Afghanistan – Troops loyal to northern Afghan warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam controlled the strategic tunnel providing access to northern Afghanistan Wednesday and vowed to defend it if attacked by the Taleban militia, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

"We don't want to make war on *anybody but if attacked*, we will defend ourselves," said Uzbek General Chari at the front line near the Salang Tunnel.

Chari and his tank borne soldiers were some five kilometers (three miles) below the entrance to the Salang Tunnel, where they commanded a perfect field of fire on the highway below.

The tunnel, 120 kilometers (72 miles) north of Kabul, gives access to northern Afghan provinces controlled by forces loyal to ex-communist General Dostam, the Taleban's main rival.

The Taleban religious militia, who have relentlessly pushed northward since capturing Kabul on Friday, were based at a roadside checkpost at least 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of the tunnel's entrance and well out of sight of the Uzbek troops.

Between the two groups was a military no-mans land occupied by civilians, many of whom were preparing to evacuate the area. The Taleban said Wednesday that a Dostm delegation was coming to the city although the agenda for the talks had not been set.

"Our forces have just recently come to face Dostam for the first time, so everything is very new," said Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taleban's caretaker minister for information and culture.

Meanwhile, there was calm at the entrance to the Panjshir Valley, although the Taleban and the forces of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani exchanged machine gun fire thwre Tuesday night, according to locals.

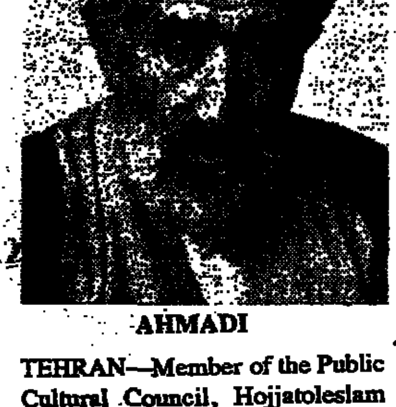
Rabbani forces fled to the valley after being pushed out of Kabul last week.

On the chilly, wind swept Salang highway, Chari and his men had little to do except monitor

(Contd on Pg. 22)

Familiarizing the World With Islamic Culture, a Must

Tehran Times Service

AHMADI

TEHRAN—Member of the Public Cultural Council, Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Ahmadi told the *Tehran Times* that culture is the basis of intellectual development of the society, and that it plays a pivotal role in the health of families, as well as the whole society.

Referring to the necessity of dissemination of Islamic culture in the society, Ahmadi underlined that

(Contd on Pg. 22)

Palestinians Ready for Violence If Washington Summit Fails

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Palestinians here said they were ready to take up their stones again against Israeli soldiers if President Yasser Arafat returned from Wednesday's Middle East summit in Washington empty-handed.

"We have to come out with something, or we will go out into the streets again," said Marwan, 18, who took part in stone-throwing protests against Israeli soldiers at Rachel's Tomb on the outskirts of Bethlehem last week.

(Contd on Pg. 22)



WASHINGTON, DC, United States (October 1) from L to R, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, King Hussein of Jordan, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leave the Oval Office at the White House after their meeting. The leaders met to salvage the Middle East peace talks after violent clashes in Israel and the Palestinian territories last week.

(AFP PHOTO)

ECO Adopts Strategy to Year 2005



ARASTOO

TEHRAN—In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, the Director General of ECO Affairs of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Seyyed Mojtaba Arastoo said that the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), an intergovernmental regional cooperation organization devoted to the socio-economic development of its ten member states, endorsed 11 documents as the organization's blueprint, outlining its legal entity, restructuring long-term strategies, administrative procedures and methodologies, personnel selection criteria, financing system and conduct of business with other economic agencies.

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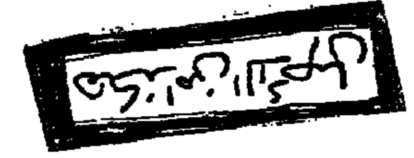
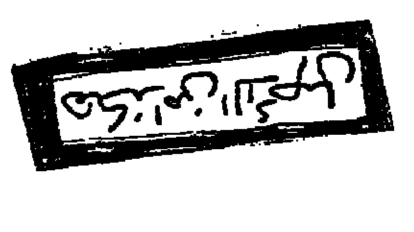
Bangladesh Eager to Cooperate With Iran's Private Sector

Tehran Times Service

MUNIR-UZ-ZAMAN

TEHRAN — Deputy Secretary of Commerce of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mir Munir-uz-Zaman, who is here to direct the Bangladesh Pavilion in the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair, in an interview with the Tehran Times praised the enthusiastic participation of international commercial

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Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed at Keyhan

In the Name of Allah

Those who called Shu'aib a liar were as though they had never dwelt therein; those who called Shu'aib a liar, they were the losers.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:92)

OPINION

Demagogues Manipulating the Masses

Bill Clinton and Benjamin Netanyahu, the men at the helm of state in two different countries, are manipulating the electorate on the eve of presidential election in the United States and passing a vote of confidence in the government in Israel. To be more exact, only four weeks are left until the U.S. presidential election and Netabyahu is hopeful to get a vote of confidence on Sunday.

In fact, the American president intends to prove to his countrymen that the Middle East is still in his pocket, and the Zionist prime minister aims to get the point across to the Israelis that his tough rhetoric in the course of the election campaign was not merely a ploy to take office and that he is really committed to his promises.

Consequently, Clinton called for a summit meeting between the Zionist premier and the Palestinian leader in Washington D.C. on Wednesday, which was welcomed by Netanyahu, who also agreed to make certain "concessions" to the Palestinians.

It is quite essential that the Arab states, particularly the Palestinian nation, gain an insight into the real motives behind summits of this sort and refuse to play into the hands of their enemies. The following points should be kept in mind with regard to the so-called concessions.

First of all, nearly all world observers are unanimous in the view that the issue of Israeli troops redeployment from Al-Khalil does not carry so much weight compared with the more vital issues linked to Palestine. Secondly, Palestinian leadership should not be deceived by such concessions, as the Zionist leaders have frequently reached agreements with the Palestinians in the past but have repudiated those accords later.

It has often been emphasized in this column that signing agreements is not in itself significant if there is no guarantee of implementation. In other words, there was no need to hold a summit in Washington D.C. if the hardline Zionist premier had committed himself to the Oslo agreement.

Nevertheless, as far as establishing a durable peace in the Mideast is concerned, the implementation of the Oslo accord by itself is not enough and Israel should be forced by the international community to implement all UN resolutions passed on the Palestinian issue.

The Palestinian leadership should set a deadline for the implementation of the UN resolutions by Israel. If the Zionist regime fails to meet the deadline, the armed struggle of the oppressed Palestinians should resume with full might to bring the Israeli occupiers to their senses.

Sierra Leonean President Wraps Up Official Visit


Photo: Abbas Takin

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Sierra Leonean President Al-Haj Ahmad Tijan Kaba signed a number of agreements and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) before leaving for home on Wednesday.

Visiting the Mobarakeh Steel Mill in Isfahan Province on Wednesday, he said that, in view of abundant iron ore mines in his country, there are great potentials for cooperation between Iran and Sierra Leone in the field of steel industry.

He added that he has already visited some steel mills in different countries in Europe, America and Africa. "But the mill in Mobarakeh is indeed remarkable," he noted.

The sales manager of the mill, Mohsen Qoraishi, briefed Tijan Kaba on the technical activities of that great industrial complex. He said that the steel mill has already attained 90 percent of its nominal capacity, going ahead of its timetable. The mill's annual nominal production capacity is 2.4 million tons.

The Sierra Leonean president visited Iran at the head of a high-ranking delegation including eight cabinet ministers. He arrived in Isfahan on Wednesday morning.

Jewish Society Condemns Zionist Massacre of Palestinians

TEHRAN — The Society of Iran's Jewish Intellectuals in a statement issued here Wednesday condemned the suppressive moves taken by the Zionist regime against the Palestinians and massacring of the Palestinian nation.

Stressing that Qods is respected by followers of all divine religions, the statement said Iranian Jews denounce digging tunnel near the Al-Aqsa Mosque in defiance of the protests by world Jews against this aggressive move.

It urged Jews all over the world to take their protest against the measures of Benjamin Netanyahu's government to the world people and the international organizations and prevent a group of racists from playing with the destiny of the people of the region. (IRNA)

Moroccan Ambassador Calls For Expansion of Ties With Iran

TEHRAN — Moroccan Ambassador to Tehran Mohammad Azaroul in a meeting here Wednesday with Vice Chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Majlis Mohammad Javad Larijani underlined expansion of Tehran-Rabat ties in all areas.

(Contd on Pg. 23)

Velayati Meets Counterparts on Sidelines of UN Assembly

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on the sidelines of the 51st annual session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday conferred with his Ukrainian, Lebanese, Bangladeshi, Uruguayan and Guinean counterparts.

In a meeting with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Gennady Udovenko, Velayati called for deepening bilateral relations and expansion of cooperation.

The two ministers also discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and emphasized participation of all Afghan factions in administration of the country.

The Ukrainian minister expressed concern over the trend of the developments in the war-torn Afghanistan.

Issues related to the Middle East, and Afghanistan figured in a separate meeting between Velayati and his Lebanese counterpart Faris Boues.

The two sides exchanged views on the situation in Lebanon and the Zionist regime's recent crimes in the occupied lands.

Velayati also met with his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdus Samad Azad and discussed matters of mutual interest in political and economic fields.

Meanwhile, Iran's relations with Guinea and Uruguay figured in Velayati's talks with the foreign ministers of the African and Latin American nations. (IRNA)

Majlis Deputies Vote to Create Subcommittee on Women's Affairs

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Majlis voted Wednesday to create a special subcommittee to address women's problems after making of the proposal twice in recent years.

The proposal to create a subcommittee on women and family affairs, submitted by the 10 women deputies of the Majlis, received 136 yes votes from a total of 195 deputies present.

They referred to a speech last month by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, who demanded women play a "more important social, economic and political role" in the country.

The Leader warned against efforts to "deprive women of the right to participate ... or to force them to work at home" and asked the government and Majlis to work to restore their rights.

Many deputies supported the bill this time to heed the Leader's call.

Speaker: Iran Pillar of World of Islam

ZAHEDAN, Sistan-Baluchestan Province — Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri here Wednesday said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the pillar of the world of Islam and offers the best pattern for all Muslim countries.

Addressing a large gathering of local people in this southeastern province, the speaker said that Iran is currently enjoying stability, tranquility and unity and is continuing its reconstruction efforts.

Commenting on hostility of the arrogant powers with the Islamic Republic, he said that enemy plots have been thwarted through wise leadership of the late Imam Khomeini and Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and unity of the Muslim nation of Iran.

Referring to attempts made by the enemies to sow discord between



Shia and Sunni Muslims, the speaker noted that this conspiracy has also been neutralized.

"Our Sunni brothers, shoulder to shoulder with their Shia compatriots, have always been defending the Islamic Revolution and its values," he reiterated.

(Contd on Pg. 23)

Iran Faces No Problem Attracting Investment in Its Oil Sector

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Tuesday that there was no reason to find ways around U.S. sanctions as foreign firms were already prepared to pay no attention to its threats.

He predicted that President Clinton's use of extra-territorial laws to punish companies trading with Iran would prove to be a "very bad experience" for the U.S. an IRNA dispatch said from London.

Speaking at a press conference in London, the Iranian Oil Minister said U.S. sanctions "never worked at all in the world against any country."

If Washington had the right to invoke such laws, then others had the "same right to respond to defend their sovereignty," he said. The result, he suggested, could see "anarchy in the whole world" if the rules of the game were ignored.

U.S. threats to penalize non-American firms has provoked a worldwide backlash from its allies, led by Canada and the European Union, who have embarked upon retaliatory measures to protect their interests.

Aqazadeh said that Iran did not face any problems attracting investment for its oil projects and had no need to avoid Clinton's sanctions law, suggesting some contracts could be finalized in the near future.

"Iran had not lost anything," he said, while most American firms admitted they had lost huge benefits, whether contract work or in trading oil.

His advice was it would be "better for the U.S. to reconsider its foreign policy," saying that in the past it had "not worked well" in the world.

With regard to the expansion of Iran's oil interests outside the country, Aqazadeh said that there had not just been the recent 50 percent stake in a Pakistan refinery but talks were going on for other joint ventures in Bangladesh, Mozambique and Vietnam.

He also disclosed that the Bandar Abbas Refinery would be opening around the end of the year with a 24,000 bpd capacity and that most of its produce would be exported in 1997, worth more than $1 billion.

The oil minister praised the improved marketing policy of the National Iranian Oil Company, which has built up some 2m bpd of long-term contracts out of total exports of between 2.6 and 2.7 mbpd.

He expected Iran's oil revenue in the current year ending March could be more than $2bn above its budget of $16bn based upon prices of 15.50 dollars per barrel against rates averaging nearly 18 dpb.



TEHRAN—A scene from the second day of the 22nd. Tehran International Trade Fair yesterday shows visitors looking at different pavilions.

ASEAN, ECO Reach Agreements on Joint Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Foreign ministers of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in a joint meeting in New York Tuesday reached agreements on expansion of bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation.

The meeting was co-chaired by Singaporean Foreign Minister Shanmugan Jayakumar and Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in the absence of the rotating president of the ECO from Turkmenistan, IRNA reported.

It was decided in the meeting that special groups be formed to explore avenues for economic, trade and transportation cooperation between the two regional organizations.

ASEAN groups Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines while ECO comprises Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Tajikistan, Kyrkyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

Singaporean Foreign Minister Jayakumar made proposals on exchange of experts saying members of the two organizations have good and favorable bilateral ties.

He also called for providing facilities for the exchange of delegations from private sector and chambers of commerce of the member countries to become acquainted with economic and trade potentials. He added that this will pave the way for greater cooperation between ECO and ASEAN.

Foreign Minister Velayati said there are vast opportunities to promote cooperation between the two ogrganizations on the basis of comparative advantage and mutuality of benefits.

Velayati also said the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway provides easy access between the two regions and ECO-ASEAN members.

He also proposed that the two secretaries general be asked to work out definite proposals regarding the modalities of cooperation in specific areas.

Iran, Kuwait Discuss Promotion of Trade Ties

TEHRAN — First Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry of Kuwait, Abdullah al-Mojran al-Roumi, met here on Tuesday with Iranian Minister of Commerce, Yahya Al-e-Eshaq, to discuss the ways to promote bilateral trade, IRNA reported.

Al-Roumi, calling for the expansion of shipping lines between the two countries in order to increase the level of bilateral exchanges of goods, welcomed the upcoming Iranian trade fair in Kuwait.

He said Kuwait will give permission to the Iranian fair organizers to sell their goods directly.

Al-e-Eshaq, pointing to Iran's participation in various projects in Central Asia, said that there were ample grounds of cooperation between Iran and Kuwait.

He also promised that the bilateral agreement on trade, already approved by Kuwait's parliament, would be endorsed by Iran soon.





Speaker Inaugurates Zahedan's Hospital, Pays Homage to Martyrs



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri inaugurated a 256-bed hospital in Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Wednesday.

The 20-billion credit hospital is under the umbrella of the social security organization of the province. It is equipped with 4 surgical wards, physiotherapy, radiology and blood transmission wards.

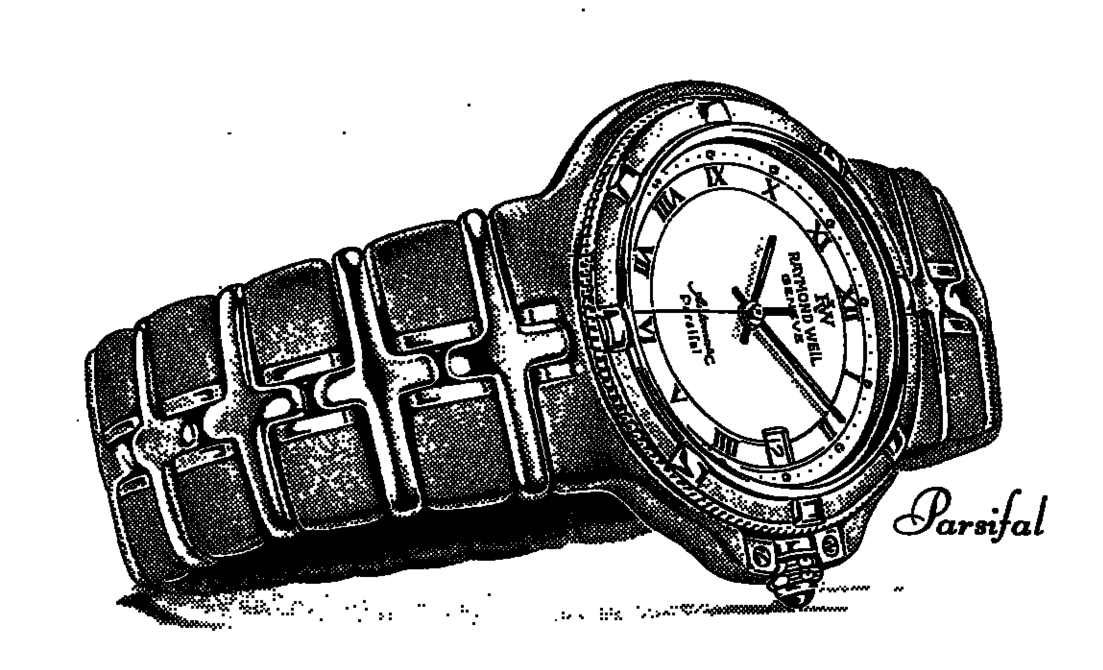
Nateq Nouri, who is in Zahedan on a four-day tour of the province, also attended the Zahedan cemetery "Behesht-e Mostafa" Wednesday and paid tribute to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and the sacred defence.

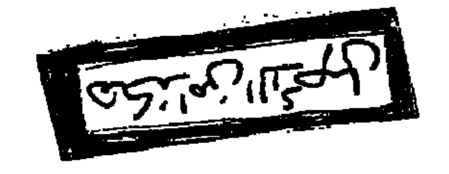
Helicopters of the airborne units showered the martyrs graves with flowers.

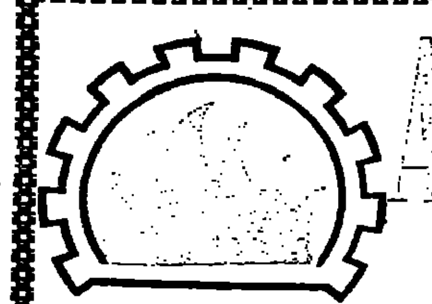
The Majlis speaker further in a meeting with the staff of Qods-e-Razavi Bread Mill of Zahedan said that establishment and investment in the productive and industrial units of the deprived areas is a must.

He termed as significant the country's industrial growth and said that it has caused boosting of non-oil exports.





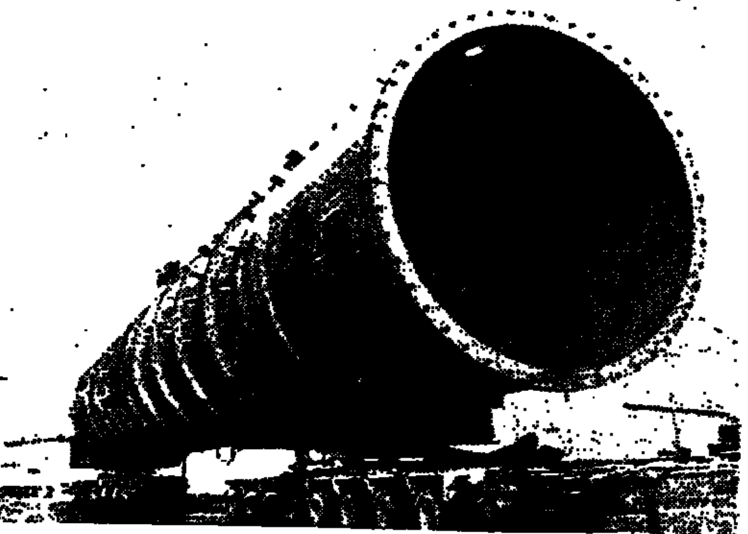




Azar Ab, an Industry-Making Industry

Largest Manufacturer of Equipment for Refineries and Power Plants

The giant industrial company of Azar Ab is located some 5 kilometers away from the industrial city of Arak on a 33-hectare land area. No doubt, Azar Ab's macro-economic activities along with its production quality and quantity introduce the company as the pride of Iranian industry.



Azar Ab Industries Co., formally inaugurated in 1989, is a strong supporter of all Iranian industries, specially heavy structures and industries. Azar Ab is not merely one of the modern, efficient and prideworthy industrial complexes, rather it is a real practical university which has gathered together a treasury of theoretical knowledges and practical experiences plus 2,000 qualified personnel. Engineers, technicians, and technical staff form half of the constructors; the other half is manned by skilled technical laborers and logistics group.

In this mighty industrial association, the personnel are active in workshops in a land area of 110 sq.m.

Azar Ab Capabilities and Productions

Azar Ab Industries Company has considered great objectives for itself from the very beginning:

1- Designing, engineering, manufacturing, installation and bringing into operation of power plants and industrial steam boilers

2- Engineering, manufacturing and installation of water turbines with the maximum capacity of 250 mW

3- Consulting in manufacturing required equipment for power, oil and gas, petrochemistry, cement, sugar and heavy structures sectors

Products in Azar Ab Industries Company are produced based on strict principles such as:

— Maximum utilization of the present capacities and capabilities

— Improving productivity per capita up to the approved international standards

Heavy Metalworks Shop (S.P.P)

This workshop itself, includes five production lines in five large halls. Each hall is divided into two units namely 'manufacturing' and 'assembly'. In manufacturing units, mainly preliminary operations are performed, and in the assembly units connections, adjustments, hand and automatic welding, testing and final assembly are performed.

Heavy Machinery Workshop (H.M.C)

This workshop has no parallel in its kind nationwide and in the Middle East. It includes three machinery lines in three large halls. In this workshop, all machinery operations on big parts, medium single parts, mass or semi-mass are performed.

Generally speaking, all careful operations on heavy and medium machinery (S.P.P) are performed in this workshop by utilizing state-of-the-art machinery such as various types of lathes, boring mills, gear-making and vertical lathes.

Equipment Manufacturing Workshop

Applying light equipment machinery, this workshop renders services for two other workshops mentioned earlier (S.P.P & H.M.C)

Overseas Activities

According to the paragraphs of a contract concluded with the Japanese I.H.I company on transferring technology and technical know-how, steam boilers, natural circulation system and gas & liquid fuels may be cited as the following:

One-piece steam boilers with a capacity of 20T/H to 100T/H

Industrial steam boilers with a capacity of 30T/H to 350T/H

Power plant steam boilers with a capacity of 390T/H to 2000T/H

Also a contract has been concluded with the Japanese J.S.W on transferring technology, reactors, towers, under-pressure reservoirs with a diameter of 6 to 200mm from carbon steel, stainless steel according to ASME and TEMA standards and C.B.R classes.

Azar Ab Industries Company, Pioneer of Industrial Development and Domestic Construction

A contract on technical cooperation and designing & engineering one-piece steam boilers, industrial boilers and heat recycling steam boilers was also concluded with the Spanish Fouster Wheeler Company.

Another contract is concluded with Chinese Harbin HEM Company on water turbines, setting quality assurance system according to the requirements of international ISO 9000 standard.

Azar Ab's Products

Azar Ab Industries Co.'s supplies a wide range of products including: power plant steam boilers, industrial boilers, one-piece steam boilers, under-pressure reservoirs for (medium, heavy) heat transformers, process towers, furnaces and mills for paster cement factories and steel skeletons. Besides these products, Azar Ab Industries Company deserves high capabilities on designing, engineering, manufacturing, testing, inspection, installation and putting into



operation of all kinds of heavy and giant equipment needed for infrastructure plans of the country. Applying state-of-the-art technology and production according to the requirements of international standards is the constant motto of Azar Ab Industries Co.

Azar Ab has transferred technical know-how for its products from leading and giant industrial companies of the world, and still it enjoys technical assistance of the said companies.

Heavy products of the company have well proven their superb and prideworthy efficiency in different cities of the country:

— Designing and manufacturing 47 under-pressure reservoirs for Arak Industrial Oil Producing Company

— Manufacturing various types of under-pressure reservoirs for Arak 7th Refinery,

— Manufacturing 39 under-pressure reservoirs for Kangan Natural Gas Refinery

— Manufacturing and installing giant boilers for Qazvin Shahid Rajaei Power Plant

Azar Ab Industries Company has well played its pivotal role in economic and construction plans of the country. The contract for manufacturing water turbines for power generation along with creation of Gilan Combine Cycle Power Plant, plus combine cycle power plants of Qom, Neishabour, Karoon 1,3,4 and Karkheh are solid evidences of its wide participation in construction works of the country.

To introduce its capabilities and its advanced technology, Azar Ab has actively participated in the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair, Hall 26C.



Azar Ab Industries Company Warmly Welcomes Dear Visitors at the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair, Hall 26C, at the Permanent Ground for Tehran International Fairs.



Sports Summary

(Tehran Times Service)

SOCCER

FLORENCE: Middlesbrough's Italian international striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, a seven million pound summer signing from European champions Juventus, said he was interested in a move to Manchester United, who he said were ready to pay 10 million pounds for his services.

"The idea is exciting because Manchester United is prestigious," the 28-year-old Ravanelli was reported as saying.

But United Chief Executive Martin Edwards immediately denied the story saying it was "absolute nonsense".

Ravanelli is currently in Italy on World Cup qualifier duty.

LONDON: Alan Shearer advised England Coach Glenn hoddle he and Newcastle teammate Les Ferdinand could form their country's top strike partnership to ensure qualification for the 1998 World Cup.

Both Shearer and Ferdinand scored in Monday night's 4-3 victory over Aston Villa, propelling the Magpies to second in the premiership table.

And when asked about their international prospects, Shearer said: "we can't do any more. we have both been playing reasonably well and both been scoring goals. That's all we can do at club level and now both of us have to hope that we get the call."

FLORENCE: Italian Coach Arrigo Sacchi admitted his fair share of the blame for his team's humiliating exit from the European championships in England.

Preparing his squad for their first match of the 1998 World Cup qualifying campaign in Moldova on Saturday, he said: "In England, the lack of success was down to the coach, the players and the whole environment. I deserved the criticism I got, I accept it.

He concluded: "The English experience has taught me a lot. But I was not born perfect and I will not die perfect."

Brighton already had a football association sentence hanging over them with their fans having rioted to force the abandonment of a game against York last april.

TENNIS

LYON: Number two seed Yevgeni Kafelnikov won his first round clash at the men's 750,000 dollars ATP indoor event in Lyon, beating Czech Daniel Vacek 7-6 (7/2), 6-7 (5/7), 6-4.

The shock of the day was the defeat of South Africa's third-seeded Wayne Ferreira, the holder, who was returning after a knee operation. The world number six bowed 7-5, 4-6, 4-6 to Moroccan Younes El Aynaoui, ranked 65th on the ATP computer. Britain's Tim Henman beat Frenchman Guy Forget in straight sets.

SINGAPORE: World number two Michael Chang whipped Dennis Van Scheppingen in straight sets and cruised into the second round of the 414,500-dollar Heineken Open.

The 24-year-old Chinese-American, a huge crowd favourite here, fired nine aces en route to handing his opponent a 6-0, 6-3 tennis lesson in 50 minutes at the Singapore indoor stadium.

CRICKET

NAIROBI: Sri Lanka showed their superiority in one-day cricket when they beat South Africa by three wickets in the four nations tournament at the Nairobi Club.

Despite playing on an unpredictable pitch, Sri Lanka kept South Africa to 169 all out in 42 overs with top spinner Muttiah Murilitharan grabbing four wickets.

Sri Lanka called it a day after reaching 170 for eight in 40.4 overs.

SYDNEY: Australian cricketing great Dennis Lillee said there had never been a better time to beat the West Indies and rated the depth of Australia's pace attack as a lot healthier than in the recent past.

Australia hosts the west indies in a five-test series this season and lillee was optimistic about retaining the Frank Worrell Trophy, won last year in the West Indies' first home series loss to Australia since 1972-73.

Lillee, Australia's record test wicket taker, said the West Indians relied greatly on their aging pace duo of Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose.

"Walsh and Ambrose are just holding them together and in terms of age and wear and tear have got to be getting towards the end of it," Lillee said, adding: "after them they are a bit light."

GOLF

LONDON: Colin Montgomerie is close to finishing as the top money winner on the European Tour order of merit for a record-equalling fourth consecutive year.

Scotland's Montgomerie has won 684,646 pounds this season in Europe, 143,347 ahead of second-placed Ian Woosnam, with two tournaments which count on the money list remaining.



MADRID, Spain (October 1): Real Madrid's Victor (L) is challenged by Arteaga of Espanol during a Spanish league match. Real won 2-0. (AFP PHOTO)

Weah Injured as Porto Stun Old Foes Milan

MILAN — AC Milan striker George Weah was taken to hospital with a freak hand injury on Wednesday as the Italian favourites lost 3-2 to Porto in their opening European Cup Champions' league group d match.

Brazilian striker Jardel, in his first season in European soccer and making his cup debut as a second half substitute, was the Porto hero with two well-taken goals in the last 15 minutes as his side twice came from behind.

It was the first time that Milan, five times champions in the past, had lost a European Cup match in Italy since 1979 when the victorious opponents were also Porto.

Wednesday's defeat had much to do with the absence through injury of veteran defender Franco Baresi, whose steady presence has long been the rock that has brought Milan title after title.

It also followed the injury to Weah, who was taken to hospital after being carried off on a stretcher with a heavily bleeding right hand only seconds after the liberian scored Milan's second goal in the 68th minute.

A club spokesman said the world player of the year had snared a gold ring on his hand, apparently as he wheeled away in jubilation after making the score 2-1.

He said weah went to hospital because the ring could not be removed and would have to be cut off his finger.

In his absence, Porto, the 1987 European Cup champions, stiffened their resolve.

Jardel, a 22-year-old summer signing from Brazilian Club Gremio who came on in the 62nd minute, took advantage of some glaring defensive errors to snatch the victory.

He headed in a 75th-minute equaliser to level at 2-2 and then shot home the winner seven minutes from time. Jardel has played only twice in the Portuguese league this season but has already scored two goals there as well.

Marco Simone had put Milan ahead in the 14th minute, helped by Roberto Baggio who was also making his European Cup debut, and Milan looked to be comfortably in control.

It was Simone's 12th career goal in Europe but tve lead was cancelled out by Artur in the 53rd minute.

"Porto deserved their win," said new Milan Coach Oscar Tabarez, who replaced cup-winning Fabio Capello at the start of the season. "They took advantage of our errors.

"They played very well in defence and knew how to go forward when they were behind," the Uruguayan added.

Teams:

Milan - 1-Sebastiano Rossi, 2-Christian Panucci, 3-Paolo Maldini, 5-Filippo Galli, 14-Michael Reiziger (21-Mauro Tassotti, 40th minute), 4-Demetrio Albertini, 8-Marcel Desailly, 20-Zvonimir Boban (24-Stefanio Eranio, 69th), 18-Roberto Baggio, 9-George Weah (22-Edgar Davids, 69th), 23-Marco Simone.

Porto - 1-Andrzej Wozniak, 4-Aloisio (11-Ljubinko Drulovic, 72nd), 5-Fernando Meodes 7-Sergio Conceicao, 13-Lula, 14-Artur (8-Rui Barros, 87th), 17-Barroso (16-Jardel, 62nd), 20-Paulinho Santos, 21-Edmilson, 22-Jorge Costa, 25-Zlatko Zahovic.

REUTER)

Nicaragua's Alvarez Knocks Out Shiohama, Keeps WBA Strawweight Title

KITAKYUSHU, Japan — Nicaragua's unbeaten Rosento Alvarez knocked out Japan's Takashi Shiohama in the eighth round after flooring him four times Tuesday night and retained his World Boxing Association strawweight title.

Alvarez attacked Shiohama from the beginning of the scheduled 12-round bout with accurate hooks and left and right blows, and knocked him down twice in the second round.

In the eighth, he again floored Shiohama twice with a series of blows before knocking him out at 1:26 with a left straight to the face.

In between, Shiohama, the Wba's 10th-ranked contender, attacked the 26-year-old champion with straight punches but caused no serious harm.

"Shiohama's punches were strong, but not strong enough to beat me," said Alvarez, who was making his third defense of the title he won from Chana Porpaoin of Thailand in Bangkok on Dec. 2, 1995, with a split 12-round decision.

Through the seventh round, Alvarez was leading 69-63 on the card of Panamanian judge Rodolfo Maldonado. Philippe Verbeke of Belgium and Chalerm Prayadsab of Thailand both scored it 68-63 for Alvarez.

More than 3,000 spectators watched the 22-year-old Shiohama's challenge at the Kitakyushu city gymnasium in southwestern Japan.

It was Alvarez's 23rd victory, including 15 by knockouts, against no defeats. Shiohama suffered his first loss after 15 victories, including five by knockout.

Alvarez weighed 47.6 kilograms (105 pounds), the division limit, and Shiohama 47.3 kilograms (104 1/4 pounds).

(AP)

Montgomerie Closes In on Fourth Money Title

VIRGINIA WATER, England — Colin Montgomerie, the top money winner the last three years in Europe, is close to making it four straight.

Montgomerie has won 684,646 pounds ($1,061,201) this season in Europe, 143,347 pounds ($222,188) ahead of No. 2 Ian Woosnam of Wales.

Two tournaments remain that count on the money list — this week's German Masters and the season-ending Volvo Masters Oct. 24-27 at Valderrama in Spain.

With prize money of 108,330 ($167,912) for the winner in this week's German Masters, Woosnam needs to win there and hope Montgomerie stumbles badly — and then stumbles again in the Volvo Masters.

Four straight money titles would tie a mark set by Peter Oosterbuis in the early 1970s.

(AP)

Real Go Top As Raul Celebrates International Call-Up

MADRID — Teenage striker Raul Gonzalez celebrated his international call-up by putting Real Madrid on the way to the top of the Spanish first division with a 2-0 win over Espanyol on Tuesday.

With 14 points from six games, Real are one point ahead of Barcelona, who have played one game less.

Just six minutes into the match, raul finished off a fine move down the left by Croatian forward Davor Suker to score his fourth goal of the season.

Twenty minutes later Espanyol keeper Toni Jimenez found a 30-metre free-kick from Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos too hot to handle, and Suker pounced on the rebound to make it 2-0.

Both sides had chances to score after the break, but the game became scrappy and Real's Italian Coach Fabio Capello was clearly unhappy with his team at stages.

Dear Readers,

The next part of 'Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master' will be published on October 10, 1996.

Editor

Motor Racing-Ex-Formula One Driver Blundell in Road Smash

LONDON, — British racing driver Mark Blundell was involved in a car smash on Tuesday in which a woman was seriously hurt, police said.

Three cars, including the ex-Formula one driver's Mercedes, were involved in in the accident near Cambridge.

Blundell, who now competes on the U.S. Indycar Circuit, was unhurt, but the woman suffered serious internal injuries. hospital staff said her condition was stable.

(Reuter)

Russians Win Men's Chess Olympiad

YEREVAN — Russia won the men's title in the 32nd Chess Olympiad in the Armenian capital Yerevan on Tuesday.

The Russians, clear favourites from the start, beat Spain 2.5 points to 1.5 in the final round to give them a total of 38.5 points for the tournament.

(Reuter)

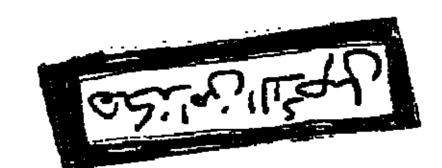
South Africa Batting Against Sri Lanka

NAIROBI – South Africa won the toss and chose to bat in their one-day international against Sri Lanka in the latest match in the four-nations tournament on Tuesday.

TEAMS: South Africa: Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje, Jonty Rhodes, Derek Crookes, Brian Mcmillan, Dave Richardson, Pat Symcox, Fanie De Villiers, Allan Donald.

Sri Lanka: Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Asanka Gurusinha, Aravinda De Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga, Hashan Tillekeratne, Roshan Mahanama, Kumar Dharmasena, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitheran, Sanjeeva De Silva.

(Reuter)



Satanic Powers Trying to Wreck Iranian Peace Efforts in Africa

NAIROBI — Iran's Ambassador to Kenya, Hamid Moayyer, said on Tuesday that the satanic powers are not satisfied with Iran's mediation efforts to end the Sudanese-Ugandan conflict and are trying to fish in troubled waters by inciting disturbance and wars between African countries.

In a talk with the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) Moayyer said that Iran does not need the permission of "evil powers" for restoring peace between Sudan and Uganda.

He said the arrogant powers were following war policies and were the enemies of the deprived and weak nations of the region.

Calling President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's peace mission between Sudan and Uganda "very successful", the Iranian ambassador said that the accord inked in Khartoum last month, is being followed up by the delegates of Sudan and Uganda in Tehran with the Republic of Malawi attending the negotiations as an observer.

The quadilateral meeting involving Sudan, Uganda, Malawi and Iran started its work in Tehran Tuesday.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

SECURITY...

The decision had been expected in line with the implementation of last November's Dayton peace accords, following official notification that free and fair elections had taken place.

But the removal of sanctions effectively closes the book on the sanctions against the six states of the former Yugoslavia.

The sanctions against Belgrade included a full trade embargo, a flight ban and a ban on participation in athletic and cultural events.

An arms embargo against former Yugoslavia had been completely lifted in June.

The sanctions were first imposed against the federal Republic of Yugoslavia, grouping Serbia and Montenegro, in 1992 and suspended by the council last November following the Dayton peace agreement.

Separate sanctions imposed against the Bosnian Serbs included a travel ban and the freezing of Bosnian Serb assets abroad. Those sanctions were terminated by Tuesday's vote, after being suspended in February in the wake of Serb forces' compliance with military arrangements.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CHERNOMYRDIN...

Earlier Tuesday, Russian Security Council secretary Alexander Lebed, warned that expanding NATO eastward would lead "to a new cold war or even a hot one".

Chernomyrdin proposed that security matters in Europe should be dealt with preferably within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) summit due to take place in Lisbon at the beginning of December.

Russia wants the Lisbon agenda to include discussion of the "European security model" which Moscow proposed at the end of last year.

This year, Switzerland holds the rotating OSCE presidency and the preparations for the Lisbon summit were among the topics discussed by Chernomyrdin and Cotti at their two-hour meeting at a Geneva hotel.

The talks also focussed on bilateral relations, notably trade.

Chernomyrdin who arrived Tuesday evening for a 24-hour working visit, was due to meet the president of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne Wednesday to submit St. Petersburg's bid to host the 2004 Olympic games. St. Petersburg is one of 11 cities vying for the honor.

Questioned by AFP about the health of President Boris Yeltsin whom he had met earlier in the day, Chernomyrdin said it was "normal" for someone preparing to undergo heart surgery.

To a question on the same subject from Swiss Radio, Chernomyrdin said: "You know, I have to work twice as hard, for myself and up to a point for the president. It is my duty and I do it with pleasure."

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

EU...

until next year, but with the U.S. Congress, which approved the law.

"This is absolutely the wrong way to go about it," said Rifkind. "It's wrong in principle and won't work in practice."

The 15 ministers also decided to widen the scope of the EU retaliatory measures planned to counter the effects of Helms-Burton to the d'Amato Law.

The d'Amato Law is potentially far more damaging than the Helms-Burton legislation because European energy groups are relatively active in those countries.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

WARLORD'S...

the civilian traffic which, although minimal, was freely running Wednesday.

Food trucks carrying melons from the north were seen on their way to Kabul while at the Taleban checkpost, bus passengers traveling north were frisked for weapons.

The Uzbek troops were well equipped for the cold, while the Taleban were not.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ECO...

The Magna Carta was inked at the foreign minister's conference held in Izmir, Turkey, inaugurated on September 14, 1996, by Necmettin Erbakan. The Turkish prime minister emphasized expanding the socio-economic role of the organization.

The successor to the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), formed in 1964, and lasting until 1979, ECO was founded in 1985 with three members - Turkey, Pakistan and Iran. ECO's objective is to promote regional economic cooperation among its member states.

The Izmir Treaty of 1977 was amended to provide a new basis for the new organization. In 1992 ECO expanded to include seven more members - Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Arastoo said that other documentations included the Quetta Plan of Action (February, 1993), the Istanbul Declaration (July, 1993) and Economic Cooperation Strategy for the ECO region.

The director-general said that the documents which have outlined the principles of the area of cooperation between the ten member countries of the region include trade, transportation, communications, energy, campaign against drug trafficking, incentives for inter-regional private investments, and observation of standard criteria in the production of items.

Arastoo defined the objectives pursued by ECO:

1. Sustainable economic development of member states.
2. Progressive removal of trade barriers and promotion of intra-regional trade.
3. Growth of ECO region in world trade.
4. Gradual integration of the economies of member states with the world economy.
5. Development of transport & communications infrastructure, linking the member states with each other and with the world.
6. Economic liberalization and privatization.
7. Mobilization and utilization of ECO's resources.
8. Effective utilization of the agricultural and industrial potential of ECO region.
9. Regional cooperation for control of drug abuse, ecological and environmental protection, and strengthening of historical and cultural ties among the peoples of the ECO region.
10. Mutual, beneficial cooperation with regional and international organizations.

The director general also defined the following principles of cooperation on the basis of which ECO is functioning:

1. The observation of sovereign equality of the member states.
2. The linking of national economic development plans with ECO's immediate and long-term objectives, to the extent possible.
3. Joint effort to gain freer access to markets outside the ECO region for raw materials and finished products of member states.
4. Effective utilization of ECO institutions, agreements, and cooperative arrangements with regional and international organizations, including multilateral financial institutions.
5. Common endeavor to develop a harmonized approach to participation in regional and global arrangements.
6. Realization of economic cooperation strategy.
7. Exchanges in educational, scientific, technical and cultural fields.

Arastoo said that one of the most prominent aspects of its strategy is its promotion of relations with various regional and international organizations, including United Nations agencies such as UNCTAD, UNDP, UNDCP, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, UNFPA, UNESCAP and the world economic organizations, such as ASEAN, Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, OAS, the European Union and the World Trade Organization, which have given their de jure recognition as an important economic entity.

He added that ECO has acquired observer status with the UN General Assembly and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Arastoo referred to the development taking shape in ECO, saying that ECO Airline has been established, the Oil and Gas conveyance through a pipeline grid are gradually being materialized, road and railroad networks being expanded, postal, telecommunications and regional satellite services are to be developed, and border trade and free trade zones are expected to be expanded.

The director general finally stated that since the banking system, insurance and transportation played an important role in the economic system of the regional economy, Istanbul will be the banking headquarters of ECO, the ECO headquarters, Islamabad, will control all the insurance activities, while Tehran's ECO headquarters will oversee land, sea, and air transportation.

The ECO legal system is expected to be effective as of January 1, 1997.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

BANGLADESH...

and industrial companies at the fair, describing it as very well organized.

Asked to describe the Bangladeshi participation, he said: "The Bangladesh Pavilion is showcasing different items, particularly jute and tea, showing the different steps in their production from cultivation to processing in the mill, with the aim in view of making Iranian people better acquainted with our products."

Munir-uz-Zaman further described their participation in the fair as being with better preparation this year because "three important government organizations and 9 private companies are taking part."

Among the main items on display in the Bangladesh pavilion are items made from jute, tea, ceramics, garments, handicrafts, cable equipment and hard plastic.

"We have received quite a good response by Iranian businessmen as well as non-businessmen. This early we have already received quite a number of orders for jute and tea.

Regarding tea he said that Bangladesh is trying hard to penetrate more deeply the Iranian market and thereby increase exports. He described exports of Bangladesh tea to Iran as not reaching a substantial level and expressed hope that with more effort from both sides Bangladesh will be able to increase its exports of tea to Iran.

He said Iran serves as a bridge to CIS countries and that he expected Iranian officials to assist his country in creating joint ventures and making appropriate arrangements for the transit and marketing of their products to those countries.

"Iran participates regularly in our annual international trade fairs (in Dhaka) and we also participate annually in Tehran's international trade fairs," he said.

With regard to Iranian goods which are being eyed for export to Bangladesh, he said his country is interested in petroleum, crude oil, bitumen, cement clinker and marble stones, adding that it has recently signed a contract with Iran for the purchase of railroad wagons in the amount of $15 million.

He called on Iran's private sector to increase their importations of Bangladesh products, especially tea and jute, and asked the Iranian government to facilitate trade between the private sectors of the two countries, for his part giving assurances of his country's readiness to cooperate and assist Iranian businessmen.

Concluding the interview, the Bangladeshi official invited Iranian businessmen to invest more intensively in his country and enter into joint ventures with Bangladesh's industries, especially jute, saying his country is ready to provide the necessary facilities in this regard.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

FAMILIARIZING...

culture is a combination of people's beliefs and behavior; it is a very sensitive issue requiring special attention.

Comparing the current cultural status of the country with the past, Ahmadi said that the religious culture of the people has had a remarkable growth in comparison with the pre-revolution era.

On the positive impacts of culture on the society, he reiterated that public culture is a sensitive issue which has positive effects on the beliefs, spirit, social life and morality of people.

Elaborating on the negative consequences of Western cultural onslaught, Ahmadi said that the West takes every possible measure to tarnish the genuine culture of other countries through cultural assault.

Ahmadi termed drug addiction, violence, crime and other social crises as the result of the dissemination of Western culture in other countries, saying that a collective effort should be launched in order to confront different aspects of this destructive culture.

He said that unanimity and unity among the Iranian people is a manifestation of the development of public culture in the society.

Ahmadi underscored that the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) is the most effective weapon vis-a-vis Western cultural assault.

The IRIB has presented an appropriate cultural pattern in recent years and has taken key measures in leading the society towards cultural growth, said Ahmadi.

He termed satellite dishes as one of the main destructive means of cultural assault by the enemies of Islam, through which the enemies of Islam try to strengthen their domination over Islamic countries.

Satellites are the most destructive tools in the hands of the West, used to keep the youth away from their religious beliefs.

He added that the campaign against this dangerous phenomenon requires vigilant action, saying that the IRIB and other mass media shoulder a heavy responsibility in this regard.

As for the activities of the Public Cultural Council, he pointed out that the council has so far submitted different cultural plans to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance which will be implemented in the near future.

He stressed that presenting the youths with appropriate cultural patterns will save them in the face of the Western cultural assault.

Ahmadi said that since the Islamic Revolution the Iranian people have spared no effort in purifying the society from Western culture.

The campaign against cultural assault requires proper investment, planning and research in cultural fields.

He added that familiarizing the world with rich Iranian Islamic culture is a necessity, and that Iranian culture is warmly welcomed by many countries throughout the world.

Ahmadi concluded that today the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys cultural, political and economic independence, reiterating that this success is due to the relentless efforts of the country's pious and committed officials, particularly President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PALESTINIANS...

"There is a volcano underneath Palestine. It is all up to Netanyahu whether it explodes," he told AFP, refusing to give his full name.

The United States launched an intensive effort early Wednesday to save a high-stakes Israeli-Palestinian summit after all-night negotiations failed to resolve key differences standing in the way of a resumption of peace negotiations, officials said.

A Palestinian negotiator said the talks, kicked off by a lengthy and upbeat meeting Tuesday between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, "entered a dark tunnel" when the two delegations got down to details in negotiations that ended at dawn.

The main hangup appeared to be Israel's refusal to set a firm date for its long-overdue withdrawal from Al-Khalil, a move viewed by the Palestinians as necessary to prove the commitment of Netanyahu's right-wing government to honor peace agreements signed by its Labor predecessor.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met early Wednesday senior Israeli and Palestinian officials to try and find common ground ahead of a planned White House meeting between Arafat, Netanyahu, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Jordan's King Hussein.

White House officials said they hoped the midday summit would be followed by a press conference and a joint communique by the participants, and the frenetic State Department diplomacy was aimed at working out formulas for the declaration acceptable to the two sides.

The Christopher meeting included Foreign Minister David Levy and Netanyahu policy adviser Dore Gold for the Israelis and Nabil Shaath and Yasser Abed Rabbo, two close Arafat aides, for the Palestinians.

A planned bilateral meeting between Arafat and Netanyahu Wednesday morning, however, was put off indefinitely, Israeli officials said.

Before the meeting Christopher discussed the state of play with Arafat and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa, who was meeting the Palestinian leader in his Washington area hotel.

"The talks are at a serious and intensive stage, the situation is fluid," said a senior U.S. official.

"The president will be re-engaged at some stage this morning" to facilitate progress, he said.

"These talks have entered a dark tunnel," one of the Palestinian negotiators said Wednesday morning.

Mussa added gloom to the atmosphere after his talks with Arafat, telling reporters he had found the Palestinian leader "very serious."

Larijani Confers with Chinese Ambassador

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN—Chinese ambassador to Iran, Wang Shiji, said here on Wednesday that the Iranian Parliament is one the most active participants in the inter-parliamentary meeting and appreciated cooperation between the Iranian and Chinese parliaments.

In a meeting with the vice chairman of the Majlis' Foreign Policy Committee, Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Chinese ambassador emphasized that cooperation between Iranian and Chinese parliaments paves the way for the two countries to exchange views on the international arena.

Meanwhile, the two sides discussed several subjects, including the latest situation in Afghanistan.

Regarding the crisis in Afghanistan, Larijani pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy toward Afghanistan's issue is to prevent military conflicts among varying factions in Afghanistan, and encourage them to come to a national agreement there.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has friendly relations with different political and military Afghan groups.

Larijani reiterated that Iran has always encouraged different factions in Afghanistan to act more wisely and logically, instead of relying on their weapons and following the path of failure.

In conclusion, Larijani expressed concern over the meddling of foreign powers,



particularly the United States, in Afghanistan and expressed hope that Afghanistan's issue would be settled to the benefit of the innocent people of Afghanistan through negotiation and exchange of views among regional countries.

Iraq Taken Aback by UN Envoy's Missile Fears

BAGHDAD — Iraq on Wednesday accused UN disarmament envoy Charles Duelfer of backing U.S. government policy after he said Baghdad had failed to allay fears it harbored ballistic missiles.

Duelfer "seems to echo U.S. administration policy to prevent UNSCOM (UN Special Commission) from finishing its work and allowing the UN to envisage lifting the embargo," Oil Minister Amer al-Rashid told the official news agency INA.

Rashid, who is in charge of disarmament for Iraq, also expressed astonishment at remarks made by Duelfer, an American who is the deputy chairman of UNSCOM.

His remarks "contradict what he told Iraqi officials and lack objectivity," General Rashid said after having held two rounds of talks with Duelfer since he arrived here Sunday.

UN officials said Duelfer had completed three days of talks with Iraqi officials during a mission to assess progress in eliminating Baghdad's banned weapons programs.

Duelfer said Tuesday that Baghdad had allowed UN inspectors to quiz Iraqi experts about weapons programs after having previously blocked such interviews, but had still failed to allay fears it harbors ballistic missiles.

He said he was in Iraq to help UNSCOM prepare a six-monthly written report which will be submitted to the UN Security Council on October 11, and to discuss the "initial assessment" of Iraq's "final" declaration on eliminating its weapons programs which it submitted to the United Nations in August 1995. (AFP)

Photo: Abbas Takin

TEHRAN (Oct.2): Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister (L) and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikhuleslam exchange documents after signing memorandum of understanding.

Kharrazi Reiterates Iran's Sovereignty Over Persian Gulf Islands

UNITED NATIONS HQ., New York – Iran's Permanent Envoy to the world body in his letter to the UN chief on Tuesday, reiterated Iran's sovereignty over the Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tumb and Lesser Tumb, and rejected the claims of the United Arab Emirates in this regard.

Kamal Kharrazi requested UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to circulate Iran's reply to the UAE claim as an official document of the Security Council.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa,



Greater Tumb and Lesser Tumb in the Persian Gulf, and rejects any claim as to the contrary," said the Iranian envoy's letter.

"The measures taken by Iran are in accordance with its rights of sovereignty and on the basis of the 1971 Agreement, and any claim as to the contrary is baseless and groundless," he added.

He assured that Islamic Iran pursues a policy of peace and good neighborliness with the countries of the region.

Kharrazi made it clear that Iran is ready to enter into bilateral talks with the UAE on the basis of the existing agreements in order to remove any misunderstandings in this regard. (IRNA)

Iran, Sri Lanka Ink Tourism, Media Cooperation Accord

TEHRAN — Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mostafa Mirsalim, and visiting Sri Lankan Minister of Media, Tourism, and Aviation, Dharmasiri Senanayake, signed an agreement Tuesday to expand cooperation in the media and tourism sectors.

The agreement provides for the exchange of media experts and trainees between Iran and Sri Lanka.

It calls for organizing film festivals between the two countries as a means of expanding cultural cooperation.

A letter of understanding, stressing on mutual respect to religious, cultural, and historical values of the two countries, underlines the two sides' willingness to promote cooperation in tourism.

It also calls for joint investments in the setting up of tourism bureaus, chain hotels, airline offices and shipping agencies. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

SPEEKER...

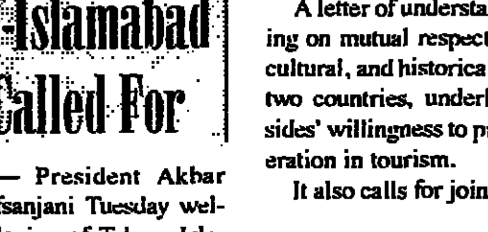
On the recent developments in the neighboring Afghanistan, he said that the country is experiencing more devestations and no bright prospect is in sight.

Foreign hands are clearly visible in Afghanistan, Nateq Nouri said, adding that putting an end to this situation demands a great degree of alertness by all Jihadi groups.

He once again declared the Islamic Republic's readiness to help establish security and launching reconstruction efforts in that Muslim country.

The Majlis speaker, heading a delegation, arrived here Wednesday morning and was warmly welcomed by local people. (IRNA)

TEHREAN (Oct.1): South Korean Ambassador here, Kim Jae Kyu (2nd R) celebrates the National Day of the Republic of Korea. South Korean Consul (1st L), Iranian Foreign Ministy official Hossein Taherian (2nd L), Iranian MP, Yahyavi (3rd L) and Mustafavi a Foreign Ministry official attend the ceremony. Photo: Abbas Takin



Promotion of Tehran-Islamabad Ties Called For

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Tuesday welcomed broadening of Tehran-Islamabad cooperation and relations.

Making the remark in a meeting with the visiting Pakistani minister of industries and production Chaudhary Abdulsattar, the president considered as essential implementation of agreements reached between the two countries.

Abdusattar said that Pakistan attaches great importance to expansion of ties with Iran and maintaining contacts between the two Muslim neighboring countries.

He also welcomed the growing trend in industrial and technical cooperation between the two countries. (IRNA)

President's Message Conveyed to Libyan Leader

TEHRAN — Advisor to Foreign Minister Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Kazem Khansari conveyed a verbal message from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi Tuesday night in the city of Sort.

Hojjatoleslam Khansari who is also director general for Middle East and North African affairs of the Iranian Foreign Ministry discussed the latest regional and international developments with the Libyan leader.

Both Qaddafi and Khansari underlined the need to further upgrade Tehran-Tripoli relations. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

MOROCCAN...

Referring to the growing bilateral relations, Larijani said that the historical and cultural commonalities between the two countries have paved the way for expansion of cooperation in international forums such as the United Nations, Organization of Islamic Conference and Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The senior Majlis deputy stressed the need for boosting bilateral parliamentary ties and expressed hope that formation of the Islamic inter-parliamentary group would help expand ties among parliaments of the Islamic states. (IRNA)

Syrian Justice Minister Meets Gilani, Moqtadaei

TEHRAN — The visiting Syrian Justice Minister Hussein Hassun in a meeting here Wednesday with Iran's Head of the Supreme Court Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani, called for further expansion of Tehran-Damascus judicial relations.

Expressing satisfaction over political and economic relations between the two countries, Hassun hoped that such close ties would be established in judicial field as well.

He added that in his meetings with Iranian judicial officials it was decided that a judicial agreement would be prepared and signed by the two countries' officials.

Meanwhile, Ayatollah Gilani noted that Muslim states should unite under the teachings of Islam so that they could withstand the enemies of Islam.

He further praised Syrian support for Iran's stands at international bodies.

On the same day, Hassun held talks with Iranian Prosecutor General Ayatollah Morteza Moqtadaei on ways to develop judicial relations between the two countries. (IRNA)

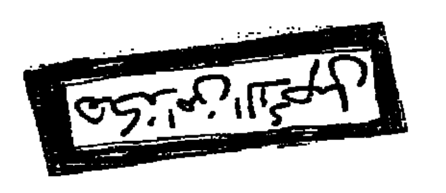
Last 48 Hours Air Quality in Tehran

Pollution Standard Index (PSI): 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350

Healthy Limit

Carbon Monoxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Particulate Matter, Nitrogen Dioxide

Tuesday 1/10/96 | Wednesday 2/10/96



'Dead' General Seeks to Sue Over Premature Obituary

BAGHDAD — A retired army general has asked President Saddam Hussein to let him sue foreign radio stations for alleging he was executed after a foiled coup attempt against the Iraqi leader.

In a telegram to Saddam, published on the front-pages of Iraqi newspapers, retired Gen. Abid Mutlak Hummod al-Jubouri said he was shocked to hear himself named on the radio broadcasts as one of the coup plotters.

On Aug. 12, the exiled Iraqi dissident group Al-Wifaq al-Watani, or National Accord Movement, said 120 Iraqi army officers - including Al-Jubouri - were shot by firing squads in Iraq. (AP)

Top Israeli Negotiator Mistakenly Left Behind

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Benjamin Netanyahu's special plane was about to take off for the Mideast summit in Washington when the prime minister's aides realized they had forgotten to tell the chief Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians about the trip.

Once airborne, Netanyahu aide Dore Gold placed a call to the home of the negotiator, former armed forces chief Dan Shomron.

"Can you get organized quickly and make your way to Washington?" Gold asked a puzzled Shomron, according to a report in Wednesday's Yediot Ahronot daily. (AP)

Peruvian Airliner Crashes Into Ocean

ANCON, Peru — A Peruvian jet carrying 70 people crashed into the foggy Pacific Ocean north of Lima after the pilot reported a mechanical failure Wednesday.

Rescue crews working three miles (5 km) north of Ancon, 30 miles (50 km) north of Lima, had found no bodies or survivors as dawn broke. A heavy fog shrouded the ocean, hampering their efforts.

Aeroperu Flight 603, a Boeing 757, was en route to Santiago, Chile, when it crashed near Ancon, the airline said in a statement. A Boeing 727 had carried passengers on the flight from Miami, said Raul Chiappo, the airline's operations manager for the airline.

He said 20 people aboard during the crash had boarded the flight in Miami. One person had boarded in New York, he said.

The plane left Lima at 12:42 a.m. and the pilot reported mechanical failure about 5 minutes later, the statement said. All contact was lost at 1:10 a.m.

The plane carried 61 passengers and nine crew members, the airline said, although the 757 has a 180-person capacity.

Before dawn, fire officials lined up ambulances, fire trucks, gasoline-powered generators and reflectors on the dark beach so any survivors would have bright lights to swim toward.

Navy and fire department boats were searching the area, said fire chief Gen. Juan Piperes of the Lima port of Callao. (AP)

Armenian Opposition Demands New Vote

YEREVAN — The leader of Armenia's Nationalist opposition called Wednesday for a fresh round of presidential elections after international observers said the vote conducted earlier this month was riddled with irregularities.

At a press conference held in secret in a Yerevan apartment, Vazgen Manukian, who was defeated in the controversial September 22 vote according to official figures, called for new elections or at least a second round.

"The illegitimacy of power could have very serious consequences for Armenia," Manukian told journalists. "We must insist that the results are checked."

"If that is not possible ... it is necessary to organize new presidential elections," the defeated opposition leader said.

Manukian's call came after the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said in Warsaw it had detected serious vote-counting irregularities that called into question President Levon Ter-Petrossian's win.

Ter-Petrossian was officially given 51.75 percent of the votes in the election against Manukian's 41.29, but some electoral commission officials questioned the results, touching off violent protests by opposition supporters alleging electoral fraud on the part of the president. (AFP)

Russian Police Storm Mosque, Detain 20

MOSCOW — Russian authorities on Wednesday released some 20 Muslims after anti-riot police descended on Moscow's main mosque and took them in for questioning, the co-chairman of the Union of Russia's Muslims said.

Moscow's mayor and a delegation of government and parliamentary officials were due to visit the mosque later in the day after riot police arrested some 20 Muslims there, sparking a storm of protest, Echo Moscow Radio said.

A riot police unit stormed the mosque late Tuesday and detained the worshippers of different ethnic backgrounds, Abdul-Vakhed Niyazov, co-chairman of the Union of Russian Muslims, told Echo Moscow Radio Wednesday.

Niyazov added that police had behaved improperly by entering the prayer room with their shoes on and armed.

"We demand that those responsible for this profanity be punished and we want an apology from Moscow's forces of law and order," he said. (AFP)



MUNICH, Germany (Sept. 30): Bosnian refugee Midhast Osmancevic shows his expulsion order in the Bavarian capital of Munich advising him to leave Germany by November 1. Osmancevic, currently living in a municipal refugee hostel, will be one of the first Bosnian war refugees who has to leave Germany, as the government decision to repatriate the 320,000 Bosnians went into effect on Tuesday. (AFP PHOTO)

Air Force Pounds Tiger Targets, Rebels Retaliate

COLOMBO — The air force pounded jungle bases of Tamil Tiger rebels in eastern Sri Lanka as the guerrillas kept up shelling their former bastion that is now under military control, officials said Wednesday.

Russian-built MI-24 helicopter gunships attacked hideouts of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the district of Batticaloa Tuesday causing heavy damage to rebel facilities, they said.

"We are awaiting details of LTTE casualties," a defense official said, adding the Tigers had been staging several hit-and-run attacks from their strongholds in thick jungles.

The military action came as the rebels escalated guerrilla attacks against security forces who captured the guerrillas' final major town of Kilinochchi on Sunday after a ferocious battle.

The Defence Ministry in a statement said that the Tigers continued to fire mortar bombs at Kilinochchi for a second day Wednesday but troops suffered no casualties in the long-range battering.

"Troops retaliated with artillery fire," the military said adding that security forces were in the process of consolidating their gains at Kilinochchi, a ghost town where virtually every building had been damaged. (AFP)

Video Manager's Ears Cut Off

LIMBURG, Germany — The manager of a chain of video rental stores was in serious condition Wednesday after attackers badly beat him up and cut off his ears in Limburg, in the central Hesse region, police said.

A search by firemen for the missing ears had so far proved fruitless.

The man's unidentified attackers had apparently been lying in wait for him after he left a birthday party on the premises of the video business late Tuesday.

He was in no state to talk and police had no indication of the motive. (AFP)

Aung San Suu Kyi Slams Government Over Crackdown

RANGOON — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi came out from behind police barricades Wednesday to rebuke the government for "illegal" actions against her pro-democracy movement, saying almost 800 of her supporters were detained in the crackdown.

It was the Nobel peace prize Laureate's first meeting with foreign reporters since armed riot police blocked off access to her home last Friday to prevent the National League for Democracy (NLD) from holding a nationwide party congress.

She disputed a government announcement Tuesday that 159 party delegates had been taken in for questioning prior to the planned congress and that local police had picked up another 400 or so activists after that.

"We think it is nearer 800," Aung San Suu Kyi said.

"They (authorities) are the ones who have violated the law," she told reporters gathered at the home of another NLD leader, Kyi Maung.

Journalists were filmed and photographed by military intelligence officers as they entered and left the house, but there was no attempt to stop the news conference.

Aung San Suu Kyi said NLD leaders reserved the right to call another party congress without requesting permission from the authorities at some time in the future, as this was the normal work of a political party. (AFP)



DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (Sept. 30): Illegal Indian workers eating melon and waiting with their luggages, prepare to leave UAE in Hamriah port in Dubai. Thousands of Indian and others Asian workers leave every day by ships and planes back to their countries after an Emiraty new labor law against the illegal workers in the UAE. (AFP PHOTO)

Arab American Groups Pessimistic About Arafat-Netanyahu Talks

CHICAGO — Arab American organizations on Tuesday voiced pessimism about the outcome of the ongoing talks between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"It will be another sellout ... Arafat will go back with a few dollars and promises that will be broken by the Israelis," Rafeeq Jaber, president of the Islamic Association for Palestine, said here.

Netanyahu and Arafat met at the White House and later held face-to-face talks over lunch that both the White House and Israeli officials described in upbeat terms.

On the U.S. bid to role to revive the faltering Middle East peace process, Jaber said that with the presidential election a month away, "he did not expect President Bill Clinton to "do more than appease the Jewish lobby."

Sabri Ibrahim, general secretary of the Islamic Association for Palestine, said the Clinton administration should stop bending backward to please the pro-Israeli lobby.

"We are asking it not to take sides," he added, a view echoed by Maha Jarad, an official of the Union of Palestinian Women's Associations.

The officials expressed strong pessimism about the prospects for peace.

"The Israelis are just playing for time. They want the benefit of normalization (with the Arabs) without giving anything in return," Jaber said.

The U.S. Arab community is estimated at between 2.5 and three million people.

But unlike the nearly 6-million-strong American Jewish community, "we are divided, generally don't get involved in the political process and therefore lack the clout to influence the administration's policy," Jaber said. (AP)

Man Bites Policeman

MACON, France — A motorist violently bit the finger of a policeman who stopped him for drunk driving, refusing to let go despite the man's cries of pain, police said Wednesday.

The 28-year-old man had to be dragged off the man's little finger by other officers present when he was asked to get out his car in Macon, eastern France, at the weekend.

The unfortunate policeman has been given several days off work to recover. The motorist will appear in court shortly accused of drunk driving and assaulting a police officer. (AFP)

Europeans Must Prepare to Adjust: US Banker

WASHINGTON — Influential American banker Robert Hormats said Tuesday he could see the merits of Europe having a single currency, but warned that "you have to prepare the people for the adjustment."

"The Americans are negative (toward the euro) because it might affect the dollar," he told a small group of reporters in the wings of the IMF and World Bank annual meetings.

He did not elaborate on this point; but noted that the market was increasingly expecting the single currency to be born on schedule in 1999.

"The market is now betting a lot that it is going to happen," said Homats, a former top US Treasury Official who is now Vice Chairman of Goldman Sachs (International).

"If it works, it will change much in the way of doing business ... if it is credible, there will be more issues in the euro."

"Bond-holders in strong currencies will want to know whether the euro will be as solid as for instance the deutsche mark," he added.

However, Hormats said it could be asked whether Europe was ready to undergo the required domestic adjustment.

"If currencies can't adjust, more will be asked of wages, pensions and so on, and there may be a need for more labour mobility, with, for example, workers moving from the south to the north," he commented.

There would have to be a period of adjustment.

"I can see the merits of having a single currency, but you will have to prepare the people for the adjustment," he added.

Hormats noted in particular that the Maastricht criterion under which public debt must be held to 60 percent of GDP includes unfunded pensions.

"Europe is ahead of us on the pensions debate," he said, adding that he was "very impressed by what the Dutch have done."

This issue had not so far been much discussed in the United States, hormats said, adding that the momentum for pensions reform came mainly from the south, from countries like Chile and Australia among others.

Moves by the European Union towards a single currency has not so far triggered any extensive debate in the United States.

But US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said at the weekend he had a "very useful" discussion on this point with other group of seven (G7) finance ministers.

Some American commercial bankers attending the meetings here have jokingly taxed their Euroopean for their "Euro-Centricism." (AFP)

Malaysia to Produce Gas-Powered Car

KAULA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad unveiled a Malaysian-made car powered by natural gas on Tuesday, saying it could help to cut air pollution in southeast asia.

The station wagon was developed by Malaysia's car company Proton and the government oil company Petronas, with some parts supplied by the French automaker Renault.

Mahathir said the price and number of cars to be produced were still being decided.

Operating the car would cost less than a gasoline-powered model, cutting carbon monoxide emissions by 64 percent and nitrogen oxide and hydrocarbon outputs by 25 percent, he said.

Malaysia is a major producer of natural gas, pumping 3.4 billion cubic feet (0.1 cubic meters) daily. (AP)

World Bank, Russia Agree On 159 Million Dollars in Loans

WASHINGTON — Officials from the World Bank and Russia have signed an agreement here under which Moscow will receive two bank loans worth 159 million dollars.

A World Bank communique said the accord was signed Sunday by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Potanin, and Johannes Linn, Bank Vice President for Europe.

One of the loans, worth 89 million dollars, will be used to finance the establishment of regulatory bodies to monitor Russian capital markets.

A second loan of 70 million dollars is earmarked for the purchase of energy-efficient equipment by municipal gas consumers. (AFP)

Japan, U.S. Agree On New Insurance Deadline

WASHINGTON — The United States and Japan agreed on Tuesday to set a new deadline of December 15 to settle their long-running dispute over insurance, putting off any immediate threat of U.S. trade retaliation.

The announcement was made by Japanese Finance Minister Wataru Kubo, in Washington for a meeting of the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

Kubo told reporters that he and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky held negotiations on September 29 and 30 and agreed to commit themselves to continue talks for a final agreement by December 15.

"Since we have reached an agreement like this, there is no possibility of the United States applying the super 301 (trade clause) over the insurance issue," Kubo said.

Super 301 allows Washington to impose punitive tariffs on nations seen to be violating international trade rules.

At issue is Japan's USD 382 billion domestic insurance market, although the problem unusually focuses on a deregulation move by Tokyo to allow big Japanese firms to enter a niche sector now dominated by foreign insurance firms.

Known as the +third sector+, it includes such cover as personal accident, sickness and nursing care.

Kubo said if agreement could not be reached by the December deadline, Japan could delay domestic firms' entry into the third sector until after January 1, 1997.

Separately, a mof official told reporters both Washington and Tokyo would have to agree on the restrictions to be placed on Japanese insurance firms' business in the third sector.

As part of efforts to settle the dispute, the Japanese government also lifted a ban on the sale of auto insurance by mail on Tuesday.

The change will help foreign companies, which do not have a large network of agents to do business.

But Japan and the United States remain far apart on solving the overall dispute, and an agreement may be elusive ahead of elections in both the United States and Japan.

The U.S. presidential election is November 5, while general elections for Japan's Lower House of Parliament are to be held on October 20.

Washington is demanding that the third sector not be opened to Japanese firms until tokyo's primary and casualty markets are fully opened to foreign competition. (REUTER)

Bundesbank Head Foresees Exchange Rate Stabiility

WASHINGTON — Exchange rate markets should remain stable over the next few months, German Central Bank President Hans Tietmeyer predicted here Sunday.

"There was an overvaluation (of the mark) in the last year," Tietmeyer told reporters during the annual meeting here of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But he added that the misalignment was corrected, "and so, all in all, I expect relative calm on the exchange markets in the coming months."

He said he wanted the dollar to remain steady against the mark. "We are all committed to a strong dollar," he insisted.

Tietmeyer said he foresaw faster growth in the German economy in the second half of 1996 in response to stronger investor and consumer confidence.

He attributed the rise in confidence to government success in cutting the budget deficit and the devaluation of the mark. (AFP)

Japan to Take Indonesia to WTO Over 'National Car' Policy

TOKYO — Japan will file a complaint against Indonesia with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) charging its granting of import-tax exemptions to designated "national cars" violated trade rules, an official said Wednesday.

"We have decided to bring our complaint to the WTO," an official with the international trade and industry ministry told AFP.

The complaint follows a decision by Indonesia to release for sale cars made by South Korea's Kia Motors Corp. for Indonesian maker PT Timor Putra Nasional without levying import duties and luxury taxes applied to other foreign-made cars.

"We made the decision after we confirmed that those cars were marketed without import tax," the ministry official said.

The official said the timing for filing the complaint with the WTO International Trade Tribunal "has not been decided yet but will not be too long from now." (AFP)

Finance Ministers Adopt New Declaration on Sustainable Growth

WASHINGTON — Finance ministers from 24 rich and poor nations Sunday hailed what they said was a positive international financial outlook and adopted an 11-point plan to ensure continued sustainable growth.

The ministers, meeting here as the policymaking interim committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), noted progress toward price stability, reductions in fiscal deficits, increased trade and a growing reliance on market forces.

"The committee welcomed the generally encouraging world economic and financial situation and prospects for a strengthening and broadening of the economic expansion of 1996 and 1997," said a communique issued after a lengthy meeting here.

It attributed the favorable developments to the implementation by many countries of policies spelled out in a previous declaration, approved in Madrid in October 1994.

"We adopted a new declaration as a partnership for sustainable global growth," said Committee Chairman Philippe Maystadt, Belgian Minister of Finance and Foreign Trade.

He explained that the committee had concluded that there was "a need to broaden the (Madrid Declaration) in several critical areas" to take account of changing global conditions.

The declaration contained the following points: — The steady application of consistent monetary, fiscal and structural policies is necessary to ensure non-inflationary growth and job creation. — Sound macroeconomic policies and the avoidance of large imbalances will promote exchange rate stability. — A favorable environment for private savings should be encouraged. — Consolidating the successes of anti-inflation efforts is needed to strengthen credible monetary policies. — Trade should be liberalized, protectionism shunned and the multilateral trading system upheld. — Progress should be made toward increased freedom of capital movements through efforts to promote stability and financial soundness. — Budgets should be balanced and fiscal discipline tightened in a multiyear framework as "continued fiscal imbalances and excessive public indebtedness ... are threats to financial stability and durable growth." (AFP)

Trade, Debt in Focus at IMF-World Bank Panel

WASHINGTON — World Trade Organization (WTO) Chief Renato Ruggiero won support here Monday for a proposal to remove tariffs and non-tariff barriers on exports from the least developed countries.

Trade issues were raised in the Joint Development Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as it met to formally give the kick-off for a plan to cut the debt overhang of the poorest debtor countries.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke told the panel that all poor countries should be given "the chance to grow through access to world markets."

He said Ruggiero's proposal, calling on developed and richer developing WTO members to open their markets to exports from the poorest countries was "extremely welcome." IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus stressed that more open international trade had been a "major force" for global growth.

He said improved market access, especially for farm goods and textiles, could have a significant impact on the export performance of developing countries.

This, in turn, he said, was "an essential element of their economic reform efforts and a critical component of a durable solution to the debt problem."

Clarke said further trade liberalization "will supplement debt relief" by helping the poorest nations earn currency required to meet their remaining obligations.

Clarke said he hoped the proposal, first presented to group of seven (G7) leaders at their summit last June at Lyon, France, would be carried forward to the wto's first ministerial meeting, scheduled to be hosted by Singapore early next December.

Spelling out his proposal in some detail, Ruggiero, the WTO's Director General, said he saw a commitment to action on behalf of the poorest countries as "a very important objective" for the Singapore meeting.

His proposal called for "full and rapid implementation" of the Marrakesh Declaration on the least developed countries, adopted at the end of the Uruguay round trade negotiations, and improving their market access by scrapping "all tariffs and non-tariff barriers."

He also urged action to improve their investment climate by negotiating multilateral rules in the WTO, "at the appropriate time", and provide better technical assistance and cooperation. (AP)

World Bank Unit Announces Extension of Its Activities

WASHINGTON — The International Finance Corporation, a World Bank Unit, Tuesday announced new moves to expand its private sector promotion programs in countries just emerging from political turbulence.

The IFC, which provides private sector equity and loan financing in the developing world, said the expansion would target 16 countries or clusters of countries where "challenging" conditions have thwarted free enterprise.

Among those selected for a three-year pilot program are Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Cambodia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mozambique and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are looking for ways to increase the IFC's impact in the poorest countries and most difficult investing environments," said Jannik Lindhaek, IFC Executive Vice President.

The IFC will assign investment staff in each of the selected countries to cultivate contacts with local businessmen, government authorities and legal communities. the aim would be to develop viable projects.

In addition, the ifc has created a 40 million dollar small enterprise fund to support small-scale investments in the program countries.

The projects to be supported will likely have total costs of between 250,000 and five million dollars, with IFC investment ranging from 100,000 to 2.5 million dollars — covering about 40 percent of each project's cost.

The IFC will in most instances provide dent financing but could also make equity investments and provide local currency guarantees. (AFP)

Vietnam Outlines Goals, Faces Challenges

HANOI, Vietnam — Government economists have introduced a broad plan to expand economic growth, battle rural poverty, and promote education and family planning through the turn of the century, official sources reported Monday.

One of the key challenges facing the government, however, will be to sustain recent economic growth, which may already be falling from its strong 9.5 percent last year.

In a policy statement to be presented at the national assembly session opening oct. 15, the ministry of planning and investment and the ministry of finance have identified five key areas for development, the official Vietnam News Agency reported.

The plan aims to promote the "market economy under state management along the socialist line," the agency said.

Curbing inflation is a key element of the plan, despite concerns that Vietnam's already decelerating inflation rate may indicate an overall economic slowdown.

Vietnam's inflation rate has slowed steadily through 1996. in September, the retail price index, the government's principal measure of inflation, rose only 0.3 percent from august and 2.9 percent from the same period last year.

Concerns over the slowing economy could fire back and have an impact lending agency officials said.

international lending agencies and overseas assistance programs are expected to be less generous in their commitments to Vietnam for 1997.

More than dlrs 2.3 billion in assistance was pledged to Vietnam for 1996.

Central Bank officials are hoping to restore economic growth through various measures, including a new cut in short-term lending rates announced Monday. (AP)



TEHRAN TIMES

Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Doctor-Assisted Suicide Cases

WASHINGTON --The Supreme Court said Tuesday it would hear arguments on the right-to-die after two state courts struck down state laws banning doctor-assisted suicide.

Suicide was illegal in the United States up until 100 years ago, and more than 40 states still have laws on the books barring physicians from assisting in suicide, even if the person involved is seriously ill.

The court hearing, said New York Solicitor General Victoria Graffeo, "will have enormous influence on whether assisted suicide becomes a standard part of our nation's medical practice ... in hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices around the country."

Doctors are rarely prosecuted for helping patients die but a retired pathologist and right-to-die activist, Jack Kevorkian, has been unsuccessfully prosecuted in Michigan three times.

He has helped 41 people kill themselves, the most recent on September 29.

And other doctors have urged changes in the law.

One doctor, Peter Shalit, described an AIDS patient in Washington who "lingered in the hospital for weeks, his lower body so swollen from oozing Kaposi's lesions that he could not walk, his genitals so swollen that he required a catheter to drain his bladder, his fingers gangrenous from clotted arteries."

The patient "begged for assistance in hastening his death," Shalit said. "As his treating doctor ... I felt that I should accommodate his request. However, because of the (Washington) statute, I was unable to assist him and he died after having been tortured for weeks by the end-phase of his disease."

The American Medical Association's (AMA) code of ethics says physician-assisted suicide is "fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks."

Legalizing assisted suicide would "intensify the pressure on gravely ill patients to choose to die in order to relieve their families and friends of the financial and emotional burdens of their illnesses," AMA lawyers said in urging the Supreme Court to reverse the lower-court rulings.

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments early next year with a ruling expected by July.

The court will review an appeals court ruling from Washington state that affects Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. It will also review a New York case that covers Connecticut, New York and Vermont.

(AFP)

Father of Alleged Bully Kills Self

TOKYO -- The father of an alleged school bully died in an apparent suicide in a southern Japan town recently, two weeks after his son was linked to the suicide of a classmate, police said.

The 45-year-old father died in a hospital in Chiran, Kagoshima Prefecture, after swallowing fertilizer the previous day, they said.

"I have heard the father was agonizing over the bullying case," Katsumi Shibano, principal of Chiran Junior High School, which the son attends, was quoted as saying by *Kyodo News*.

A 14-year-old boy from the school hanged himself on September 18, leaving a note accusing the son and seven other classmates of bullying.

The father visited the dead boy's parents repeatedly to apologize for his son's role in the death, *News Reports* said.

He was also questioned by police over the boy's suicide, they said.

Bullying at schools has been one of the major social problems in Japan since a series of teenage suicides in 1994.

(AFP)

Queen Elizabeth Immortalized as Church Gargoyle

LONDON -- Queen Elizabeth II and members of her family have been given a lofty view of the world after caricature gargoyles of them were added to the spire of a Gothic church.

The stone figures have been carved to represent the queen, Prince Charles, and her grandson Prince William among others in the style of the popular satirical television program "Spitting Images".

Vicar of St John the Divine Church in the southern London suburb of Brixton, the Reverend Lyle Dennen, said: "It was intended as fun and the queen has been very supportive. We received her permission.

"These are caricatures in the tradition of gargoyles. Traditionally gargoyles are to ward off evil, but they are also representations of things and people who are important to the church and community."

The restored 130-year-old church has more than 60 gargoyles on its 79-meter (260-foot) spire, including the vicar, a Brixton teacher and a young boy who was murdered and mutilated by drug dealers.

(AFP)

Romanian Town Plans Hard Time for Cats, Dogs

BUCHAREST -- The eastern Romanian town of Braila plans to ban the ownership of cats and order a 1 million lei ($300) fine to be imposed on anyone caught keeping them at home, a local newspaper reported recently.

In addition, under the terms of a bill being discussed by local authorities, "persons keeping more than one dog in their courtyards" will be liable to a fine of 2 million lei, the daily *Cronica Romana* reported.

The move sparked an angry reaction from the local doglovers' association. Association chairman Emil Gherman said he was "outraged" at the decision.

Braila officials said a bill was being discussed to fine people for blowing their noses, spitting in public places and discarding the shells from pumpkin seeds other than in designated places.

(AFP)

Body Found 10 Months After Death

TOKYO -- The body of a 38-year-old Japanese man was found 10 months after he died in a shelter built for people left homeless by last year's earthquake, police said.

Police said they found the decomposed body of Masao Yamashita in a prefabricated shelter in port island, an artificial island located just south of Kobe's main city of Sannomiya.

The victim, who was jobless and lived alone on welfare, was reportedly suffering from damaged liver and cerebral hemorrhage.

It was the first time a body was found after as long as 10 months since the person's death.

A police spokesman said the body was discovered after neighbors reported a foul smell. "We believe he died around the end of last year," the spokesman said.

Press reports said Yamashita's was the 103rd case of "lone death" in similar shelters built after the earthquake which hit Kobe and other western Japanese cites in January last year.

(AFP)

Pele Becomes Father of Twins

RIO DE JANEIRO -- Former Brazilian soccer superstar Pele became the father of twins, a boy and a girl, a spokeswoman for the Sao Luiz Hospital in Sao Paulo said.

The twins, Joshua and Czleste, were born at just over 30 weeks and each weighed just under three pounds (1.30 kg). Doctors had been planning to deliver the babies after October 5 but carried out the emergency cesarean operation after Pele's wife began to feel pains, the spokeswoman said.

Both the mother and the babies were doing well, the spokeswoman said.

Pele was at the birth, his first time doing so despite having three children from his first marriage.

(Reuter)

Depression Caused Lancia Matricide

TURIN, Italy -- Mental illness led the granddaughter of the founder of the Lancia car company to stab her mother to death at the family's villa, her defense lawyer said recently.

"There is no other explanation than (mental) illness," Cesare Zacconi, defense lawyer for Giovanna Anna Maria Boglione, told reporters in this northern city.

"I believe magistrates will immediately order a (psychological) examination," he added.

Boglione, 44, was taken in a state of shock to hospital on Friday where she was being held under guard after her mother, Eleonara Maria Lancia, was found dead at the luxury villa in the hills outside Italy's car capital Turin.

Lancia was one of three children of Vincenzo Lancia, a former test driver for Fiat who founded his company in 1906. He died in 1937 and control of the firm passed to his wife and former secretary, Adele.

Italian newspapers said Boglione had stabbed her mother in the heart as she lay in bed on Friday night after celebrating her 70th birthday with relatives and friends.

"'Mamma', take this knife to the heart," ran a headline in Turin's *La Stampa* daily.

It said Boglione had been suffering from depression after recently separating from her husband, adding that her mother had invited her to stay a few days at the villa to relax.

The Lancia name became a byword for luxury and racing cars and produced the sleek black Astura Lungo limousine which fascist dictator Benito Mussolini had built especially for a visit to Italy in 1938 by Nazi Fuehrer Adolf Hitler.

The company sold a majority stake to the Pesenti Financial Group during hard times in 1955 and was on the verge of bankruptcy in 1969 when it was taken over by Fiat.

(Reuter)

Pressure on Canberra to Drop Euthanasia Challenge

The first death under the law on September 22 of 66-year-old former carpenter and one-time Christian missionary Bob Dent has sparked emotional debate among Australians about whether assisted suicide should be legalized.

DARWIN, Australia -- Australia's Parliament faced mounting pressure recently to reject a move to overturn the world's first law legalizing mercy killings.

A leading figure in conservative Prime Minister John Howard's ruling Liberal Party, Victorian State government chief Jeff Kennett, said politicians had no right to interfere in citizen's private lives.

"I think most Australians support the view that I put -- I cannot understand why the federal Parliament is involving itself in this argument," Kennett said in a television interview. "This is being driven, unfortunately, by an individual who has a view which is in my opinion totally wrong."

Australia's outback Northern Territory introduced the world's first voluntary euthanasia law earlier this year, sparking controversy around the country and overseas.

Government backbencher Kevin Andrews, with Howard's support, has launched a private bid to overturn the Territory's law, which came into effect in July.

The first death under the law on September 22 of 66-year-old former carpenter and one-time Christian missionary Bob Dent has sparked emotional debate among Australians about whether assisted suicide should be legalized, or whether the terminally-ill should be forced to continue suffering until they die naturally.

Political leaders, including Howard and his deputy, Tim Fischer, have urged the repeal of the Territory's law, which critics condemn as legalized killing.

But various opinion polls show strong public support, with up to eight in 10 Australians in favor.

The doctor who helped dent to die, euthanasia campaigner Philip Nitschke, backed Kennett's call.

"There is no place for a federal directive on this issue," he told Reuters.

"This is overwhelmingly popular in the community and the politicians should keep that in mind."

Kennett described Dent's death as "beautiful".

"I think Mr. Dent's passing was beautiful for him, it must have been beautiful for his family," he said.

"For Mr. Andrews and anyone else to impose their will on how an individual wants to conduct his or her life after every other form of assistance has failed, I think, is morally wrong."

The architect of the assisted-suicide law, former Territory government chief Marshall Perron also urged Australians to lobby their national parliamentarians to reject the Andrews move.

Opinion in the Territory appears to run strongly in favor of the law and the Territory government's right to pass it, with public phone-ins to radio stations and letters to the local newspaper showing overwhelming support.

The architect of the assisted-suicide law, former Territory government chief Marshall Perron also urged Australians to lobby their national parliamentarians to reject the Andrews move.

Perron said politicians risked being swayed by the vocal anti-euthanasia lobby and ignoring the overwhelming popular support for voluntary euthanasia.

"We should be ashamed of such a law."

"The opponents scare politicians, but the supporters do not," Perron told Reuters.

"Every Australian should write to their federal members and senators protesting and asking them to back off."

The law is also facing a separate challenge in the high court. A coalition of doctors, church and aboriginal leaders has petitioned the country's highest court to declare the law unconstitutional.

Darwin: Australia's "Death Capital"

Meanwhile, Darwin, this sleepy coastal city in the country's far north, with its laid-back attitude and sunny tropical days, is an unlikely setting for Australia's "death capital".

But critics of the Northern Territory's controversial voluntary euthanasia law, the world's first measure legalizing mercy killings, fear this small capital will soon become the center of a death industry as dying people flock to use the law.

The death last week of popular local Bob Dent, the first person to take his own life under the law, has renewed debate among the fiercely independent residents of the Territory, who resent interference from "down south".

Public opinion on the streets of Darwin, there most of the 70,000 residents dress casually for the hot weather, is overwhelmingly in favor of the Territory's mercy killing law.

"People are suffering for five or six years before they finally croak it," council worker Jack Jones told Reuters.

"If they are mentally capable enough...then they should be able to do it."

Several terminally-ill people had already travelled thousands of kilometers to this isolated city hoping to die under the Territory law, leading euthanasia campaigner Doctor Philip Nitschke told Reuters.

Darwin Mayor George Brown rejects the idea that the mercy killing law will sully his city's reputation.

"I don't think this will hurt our image," he told Reuters.

"I think more and more that people are realizing that we're not a frontier, we are just as sophisticated as any other Australian city."

Nitschke, too, dismisses the "death capital" tag, although he concedes it may well be so in the short-term.

"But eventually, as other states see how successfully it (the law) operates, they'll come under pressure from their own constituencies to pass similar legislation," he said.

An anonymous letter writer to the local newspaper, the Northern Territory news, attacked critics of the law.

"These are heartless, callous, ignorant people who wish to see our grandmothers and grandfathers suffering without relief," said the writer, who signed the letter "The Lone Rainger".

But support is not unanimous.

"We should be ashamed of such a law," mother-of-three Therese de Souza said.

Darwin, Australia's smallest capital city, is closer to Asia than Sydney. It's also the country's most Asian city, with substantial Indonesian, Thai, Filipino and Timorese communities and Asian-style street markets.

Territory authorities have declared this city Australia's gateway to Asia, and shiploads of exports such as live cattle constantly leave for the booming economies to the north.

The Territory's residents, many of whom have moved here from elsewhere in Australia, are famous for their hospitality and their rough-and-tumble casualness.

Perhaps ironically for a city where the mostly-elderly, terminally-ill come to die, Darwin is a young city, with an average age well under 30 and several years below the rest of the country.

Many people are here with the military as part of Australia's defense concentration along the north, or work in sectors supporting the Territory's giant mining and live cattle industries and growing tourism sector.

(Reuter)

Experimental MS Vaccine Stabilizes Some Patients

WASHINGTON – An experimental vaccine for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) appears to have halted or slowed the progressive neurological disease in about half the patients who took part in a small study, researchers said on Monday.

The vaccine is designed as a therapy, not as a way of preventing MS. The hope is that if patients are treated early, the disease can be stopped in its tracks through a vaccine alone or through a vaccine combined with drugs.

"What you are looking for is not turning back the clock but stopping things from getting worse," Dr. Dennis Bourdette, co-author of a research paper appearing in Tuesday's edition of the journal nature medicine, said in a telephone interview.

Bourdette works at the veterans affairs medical centrerin Portland, Oregon, and the MS clinic at Oregon Health Sciences University.

MS occurs when some cells in the immune system start attacking myelin, the insulation around nerve cells.

In a year-long double-blind study, a synthesized Peptide, or compound formed from amino acids, was tested on 23 patients with progressive MS.

Only about half the patients injected with the Peptide vaccine had an immunological response to it. The vaccine boosted the number of "good" immune cells in their blood and inhibited the disease-causing ones.

And all six patients with an immunological response also had a clinical response – their disease remained stable for a year. In contrast, 10 of the 17 people who did not have a response or who received a placebo got worse, according to clinical measurements.

Whether the patients who did not respond to the vaccine would have if a different Peptide had been used is not yet known.

Biotech company connective therapeutics of Palo Alto, California, announced on Monday that it planned to conduct larger-scale, longer-term studies of the vaccine.

About 250,000 people in the United States have MS. Two drugs have been approved to give partial control of the disease, and a third is near approval. None is a cure.

MS usually strikes in young adulthood. About 60 percent of patients are women, and 40 percent men. Although the pace and pattern of the disease varies widely, many patients gradually lose muscle control. (Reuter)

Vietnam to Open First Human Organ and Tissue Bank

HANOI — Vietnam will open its first human organ and tissue bank for graft and transplant by the end of next month, an official in charge of the project said Wednesday.

The idea for the bank started several years ago following Vietnam's successes in tissue grafting, said Khuat Duy Thai of the Health Ministry's Medical Center for Organ Grafting and Preservation.

Dome 140 people have already offered to donate their bodies to the bank after they pass away, he said, adding that demand for organs may exceed supply.

The practice of donating one's body to medical science is new in Vietnam, with most people preferring to be cremated or buried.

A 24-year-old man who died of a rare degenerative disease in August became the first Vietnamese to donate his body to science.

The human tissue and organ bank is part of efforts to treat growing numbers of people with skin, heart, liver and kidney troubles.

The bank will have branches in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city. (AFP)

Agriculture Minister Seeks European Talks on Cull

LONDON - Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg will meet with the European Commission on the future of the cattle cull in the light of new research on mad cow disease, Prime Minister John Major's office said Thursday.

Hogg is to discuss with the commission and the agriculture industry the implications of recently published research indicating that the disease will die out within five years even if no British cattle are culled.

"Ministers noted that the scientific findings represent new factors which must be reviewed with the commission, within the Florence framework, for decisions on lifting the ban on beef exports on the basis of objective scientific criteria," Major's office said.

"The agriculture minister will take forward discussions with the commission and the agriculture industry in the days ahead."

Under pressure from the European Union, which has banned exports of British beef, Britain planned this year to cull 100,000 cattle considered most at risk of the disease.

"John Major told the commons after the florence summit that the first step in lifting the ban would be taken in October and the overall ban would be lifted in november," said Gavin Strang, Agriculture Spokesman for the opposition Labor Party.

"We need to ensure that that timetable is met. Our scientists and vets need to be talking with EU scientists and vets and then it's up to Douglas Hogg to negotiate an agreement."

Researchers at Oxford University calculated that without the cull, there would be an estimated 7,000 cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy - the formal name for mad cow disease - in the next five years. The proposed slaughter policy would reduce that by some 23 percent.

Earlier Thursday, Christel Donnelly, one of the authors of the study, told BBC Radio: "The debate now is whether 7,000 cases is an acceptable number, and that's something which, as scientists, we can't say."

Meanwhile, the government announced new steps to clear a backlog of cattle over 30 months old which have been targeted for culling:

- An agreement with the U.K. renderers association allowing a greater proportion of each animal to be placed in cold storage - speeding up the slaughter rate:

- The conversion of two grain stores into cold storage centers, providing space for 25,000 carcasses.

- An urgent survey of 5,000 livestock holdings to determine the exact size of the backlog. Provide an accurate assessment of the size of the backlog.

"It is an appalling admission that ministers even now, six months into the crisis, tell us that they don't know how many cattle over 30 months still have to be slaughtered," strang said. (AP)

Computer, Not Scalpel, Used to Check Skin Cancer

CANBERRA (Reuter) — An Australian scientific and medical team on Tuesday said it had invented a new way of detecting skin cancer that could do away with the scalpel and save thousands of lives.

Project leader Mark Berman told a scientific conference in Canberra that the breakthrough would allow ordinary doctors to detect melanomas with a camera and computer, instead of cutting off a suspect mole and sending it to a laboratory for a biopsy.

Melanoma, caused by overexposure to the sun, is the most dangerous form of skin cancer and kills more than 1,000 people in Australia every year.

"The beauty of this is that it ought to be possible for general practitioners (family doctors) without any special melanoma training to have an expert diagnostic tool in their surgeries," Berman told the annual Australia and New Zealand advancement of sciences conference.

"In most cases, this procedure will not require excision and will provide a diagnosis within a few minutes," Berman said.

The camera, acting as a low-power microscope, sends an image of the mole, or lesion, to a personal computer.

The computer uses digital image analysis and stored information from melanoma specialists to analyze the mole's color, texture, symmetry and general appearance to facilitate the diagnosis. (Reuter)

Noise Drives New Yorkers Crazy

New York - New Yorkers can't stand the noise anymore.

A telephone hotline set up to help police curb panhandling, prostitution and public drinking has received more complaints about the constant barrage of sound people live with than anything else.

The toll-free, 24-hour line opened two weeks ago as part of a campaign to stop so-called +quality of life+ crimes, but 43 percent of the calls have been about noise from car alarms, loud music, roaring trucks, machinery and motorcycles.

police said on Tuesday operators have logged 1,279 calls with 545 complaints about noise and only 79 about panhandlers and 54 each about prostitutes and drinking in public.

Officials have attributed the lowest crime rate in decades to their quality-of-life strategy, which is based on the belief that many people who commit minor offences go on to perpetrate major crimes.

In establishing the non-emergency telephone line, police asked the public to also report aggressive panhandlers, loiterers at automatic banking machines, illegal dumpers and the so-called +squeegee men+ — who approach stationary cars at intersections and wash windscreens with rubber implements known as squeegees in expectation of a tip.

For shootings, robberies and other emergencies, New Yorkers still call 911. (Reuter)

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Jesus, peace be with him said: My servant is my hands and my mount is my feet; my bed is the earth and my pillow, a stone; my blanket in the winter is the east of the earth and my lamp in the night is the moon; my stew is hunger and my motto is fear, my clothing is wool and my fruit and my basil is what grows from the earth for the wild beasts and cattle. I sleep while I have nothing and I rise while I have nothing, and yet there is no one on earth more wealthy than I.

(Bahar, Vol. 14, P. 239)

PRAYER

Noon	11:53
Evening	18:03
Dawn (tomorrow)	4:31
Sunrise (tomorrow)	6:03

Today In History

1904 - France-Spanish treaty for preserving independence of Morocco.

1918 - German-Austrian note is sent to United States via Switzerland for World War I armistice.

1932 - Iraq joins league of nations as British mandate ends.

1935 - Italian forces invade Ethiopia.

1941 - Germany's Adolf Hitler announces in World War II that Soviet Union has been defeated and never will rise again.

1952 - British test their first atomic bomb off coast of Australia.

1966 - British colony of Basutoland becomes new independent African nation of Lesotho.

1971 - Luna 19, unmanned Soviet spacecraft, goes into orbit around Moon.

1977 - India's former prime minister Indira Gandhi is arrested in New Delhi on two charges of corruption while in office.

1987 - Tamil-Sinhalese violence continues in eastern Trincomalee district in Sri Lanka.

1988 - Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and Chadian President Hassan Habre restore diplomatic relations between their two countries.

1993 - Communist hard-liners capture Moscow mayor's offices.

Heart Problems Most Likely on Mondays

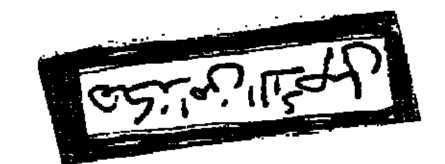
WASHINGTON — Long after they retire, some elderly people are more likely to experience heart problems on Mondays than on any other day of the week, researchers at the University of Kentucky say.

Their study, published in the journal "Circulation," says this phenomenon might be caused by the heart's ability to recall the stress of starting the work week.

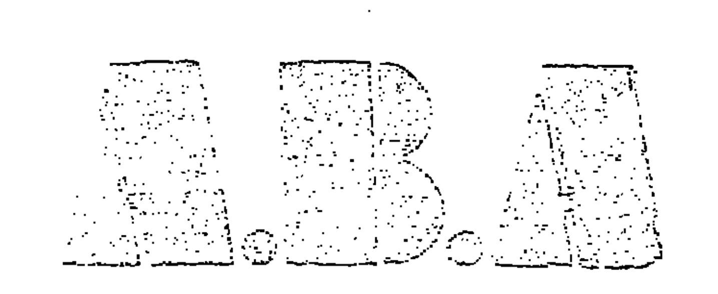
Another explanation, the study says, might be that some people experience stress upon seeing their wives or children go to work.

The researchers studied 683 elderly people wearing a defibrillator, a device that regulates the function of the heart and determines when patients experience arythmias, life-threatening disturbances in heartbeat.

Such disturbances occurred on Mondays 21 percent of the time, the study says. (AFP)

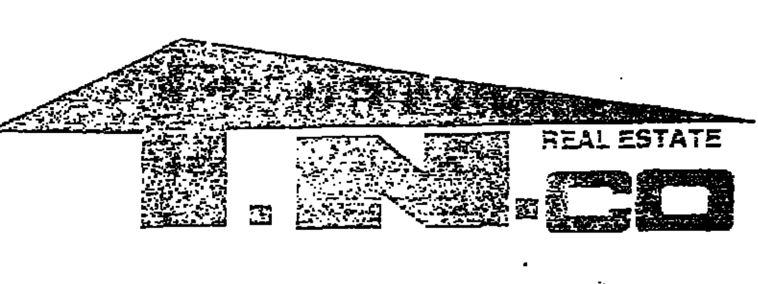


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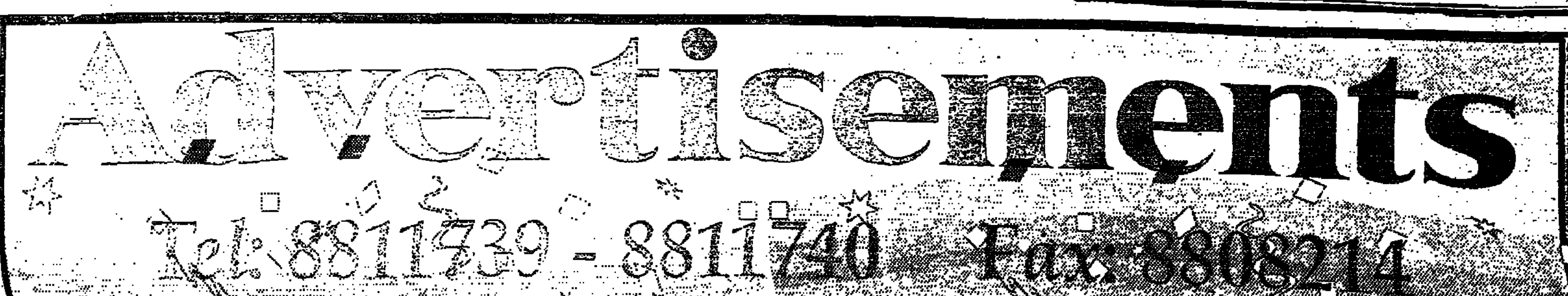
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Padania, Wallobrux, and Lottingen

By Gwynne Dyer
Tehran Times Service

"It's a revolutionary project," said Roberto Maroni, once Italy's interior minister and now head of the Padania Liberation Committee. "The difference is that the (Northern) League is now the revolutionary party, not the communists."

Just the name 'Northern League' sets the fascist alarm bells ringing in anyone alert to the linguistic nuances of Europe's dreadful 20th-century history, and League boss Umberto Bossi's rallies live up to the image — flags and banners, 'Green Shirts' guarding the leader, ranting, paranoid rhetoric, the lot.

"He shouts and screams like Mussolini," said an onlooker — but Bossi's aim is not to take Italy over. He wants to break it up, and a series of mass rallies last week culminating in a 'declaration of independence' in Campo San Stefano in Venice on September 15 was designed to give credibility to the idea of a breakaway state taking in all of the richer, northern half of Italy.

'Padania', the new country would be called, after the valley of the Po River that runs east across the northern Italian heartland. Bossi's Padanian republic would extend to 100 km. (60 miles) from Rome. it would have 32 million people — and they would have the highest per capita income in Europe.

This is the key distinction between the old communist revolutionaries and outfits like the Northern League. The communists promised to end the distinction between rich and poor. The new regionalist parties that are proliferating across Europe are more often attempts by the rich to get away from the poor entirely — by seceding from their existing countries.

The two richest parts of Spain, Catalonia and Majorca, both nourish separatist parties whose appeal is at least as much to the voters' wallets as to their local nationalisms.

A Dutch member of Parliament, Thijs Woeltgens, suggested two weeks ago that the Netherlands should merge with the neighboring German state of North Rhine-Westphalia to form a new state in the area once occupied by the forgotten kingdom of Lottingen. This ultra-rich region of 31 million people would then have huge leverage over the policies of Germany and the European Union.

And in Belgium last week, four French-speaking professors issued a manifesto demanding that the country be broken up into its French-and Flemish-speaking halves. At first glance this seems counterproductive, since Wallonia, the French part of Belgium, is poorer than Flanders. But the trick was that 'Wallobrux', as the secessionists named their new creation, would also inherit the largely French-speaking city of Brussels (Bruxelles, in French), which contains a large share of the country's wealth.

Even in this age when the crudest economis m drives policy, it is still rare for a separatist movement to run on purely economic motives. It's usually about ethnicity, religion, language and history: Kashmiris, Kurds and Eritreans barely mention economics when they make their case for independence.

Even Quebec separatists, though compelled by the spirit of the age to make a (highly implausible) argument that independence from Canada would boost Quebec's economy, are manifestly driven by old-fashioned ethnic and linguistic grudges. Basque, Corsican and other European separatist movements don't even bother about economics.

But 'Padania' has no ethnic, linguistic, or historical basis. Those seeking to dismantle the 126-year-old Italian state simply want to stop subsidizing their poorer, southern fellow-citizens, who without large subsidies from the north would have a standard of living comparable to that of Portugal or Greece.

'Lottingen' is an even more extreme anomaly, since it proposes submerging one established nationality, that of the Dutch, in another purely for economic gain. And 'Wallobrux', though it is defined in linguistic terms, is really mostly about money too.

What unites these bizarre projects is the fact that they are all in Europe. Perhaps that explains them as well: money is generally a coward, but the well-padded economic separatists of Europe know that even if they got their wish, they would still be contained within the safety of the European Union. So the phenomenon is unlikely to spread to the rest of the world.

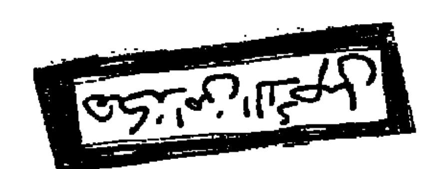
Can it succeed even in Europe? Probably not in countries where the authority and reputation of the state is still intact — which dooms the notion of 'Lottingen' to early extinction — but Italy and Belgium are the walking wounded of European states.

Belgium was existed since 1830 because that suited the needs of the great powers, but it has never roused much enthusiasm among its own citizens. ("Small country; small-minded people," remarked a 19th-century Belgian King, Leopold II.) Recent revelations about the corruption and incompetence of the authorities, ranging from the assassination of a deputy prime minister to the discovery of a paedophile ring, guarantee the separatists an attentive audience.

In Italy, the state is even weaker. The end of the Cold War broke the domestic deadlock that had frozen the Itanian communists out of power for 40 years at the price of effective one-party rule by the Christian Democrats and their allies. Soon after, revelations about forty years of corruption began to spill into the public view, and the old parties imploded.

Italian politics is now wide open for the rise of new parties that project an air of confidence and competence. The Northern League got only 20 percent of the vote in northern Italy in the last election, but it has already brought down one government in Rome. Umberto Bossi's stage-managed declaration of Padanian independence was pure theater, but given the current situation in Italy, his influence is bound to grow.

Europe, with 52 countries, has now drawn ahead of Africa's mere 51. (All the rest of the world has only 80-odd.) But the Europeans are not resting on their laurels. As somebody once observed: "Big bugs have little bugs upon their backs to bite 'em. And little bugs have littler bugs. So on. Ad infinitum."



At 25, Christiania Blossoms Into a Living 'Hippie Museum'

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — It started as a stunt in 1971, when a counterculture newspaper that needed an outrageous story for its front page staged an "invasion" of an abandoned army base.

Journalist Jakob Ludvigsen and five pals with air rifles and a picnic basket entered the base near downtown Copenhagen on September 26, declared it a "free state", took some photos and went home. Ludvigsen's paper ran the story, urging young people to squat the Sailor Alley Barracks.

Journalist Jakob Ludvigsen and five pals with air rifles and a picnic basket entered the base near downtown Copenhagen on September 26, declared it a "free state", took some photos and went home.

After the hippies took it over, they dubbed the barracks Christiania.

Today, some 25 years later, even the founders can't remember why they chose that name. But some of them are still there, homesteading in the leafy enclave near the moat of Copenhagen's ancient fortifications.

"Sometimes it feels like living in a hippie museum," resident Hulda Mader said.

Despite the pony-tailed men, bare-footed women, and wild vegetation, Christiania isn't flower-power preserved in amber.

The buildings are brightly painted, but not psychedelic. Public nudity isn't as popular as it once was. And residents — anxious to appease authorities who repeatedly threaten to shut it down — pay taxes.

Nor does it allow just anyone to live there anymore. Since 1979, the community has kept out hardened criminals, but swears by a lax policy on marijuana.

Today, 760 adults, 250 children, some 150 dogs and 14 horses live at Christiania.

To preserve the 84-acre (34-hectare) enclave's green spaces and relaxed atmosphere, no more new housing is allowed. A dozen brick buildings stand amid homes in odd experimental designs. A former administration building houses a combined concert hall and restaurant. There are 70 businesses, including cafés and bars.

But the community's best-known business is on the badly paved but aptly named Pusher Street.

"Hey, want some Moroccan, dude?" a young man shouts.

Hashish and marijuana are a mainstay of the Christiania economy, despite police raids as frequent as twice a month.

Copenhagen Criminal Commissioner Jan Richman Olsen estimated that hashish sales bring the community about $1 million every year.

How much of that goes into Christiania's common treasury isn't clear either. The treasury collects residents' rents — around 880 kroners ($152) — and fixed amounts from the businesses.

The community uses the money to pay utilities, value-added tax and a 4.25-million-kroner ($750,000) annual rent to the Defense Ministry for using the land.

Christiania nonetheless adheres to many of its ideals of alternative living — including making community decisions that can be as infuriating as egalitarian.

So exasperating were the meetings that even the community's founder, Ludvigsen, couldn't stand to live there. He left after three months and now runs an advertising agency.

"Every single item on the agenda was discussed for hours during the general meetings," Ludvigsen remembers. "Everyone had his or her say. Even the dogs took part."

Other residents wouldn't dream of leaving.

"Although it's less fun now than 25 years ago, when it was spontaneous and fun, this is home," said Jorgen Tulipan, who runs a graphic-arts studio.

Christiania is a haven for many who have found it impossible to cope elsewhere. An estimated 75 percent of Christiania's residents receive unemployment checks, long-term sick leave or other government assistance.

In 1987, the government recognized Christiania as a "social experiment" and four years later the government gave it a "blue stamp" — approval to use the land.

But while the community has come to a separate peace with the outside world, old-timers remember the days when they — and Christiania — were young and full of revolution.

"Christiania is a miracle. Look at how everything blossoms."

"Christiania is a miracle," said Leonard, a man with shoulder-length white hair who declined to give his last name. "Look at how everything blossoms." (AP)

Nigerians Panic Over "Mad Beans"

LAGOS — So-called "killer beans" are being blamed for a series of sudden and mysterious deaths in Nigeria, where people are alarmed that an outbreak akin to Europe's "mad cow" disease is spreading.

Panic spread as rumors embroidered the press reports. Across the nation, bean fritters called "akara" in the south and "kosai" in the north are popular with all tribes.

The first fatalities were recorded early in the month at Agege, a densely populated part of north Lagos where about a dozen people succumbed to attacks of vomiting and severe diarrhoea.

Other cases ensued around the country, Africa's most populous nation with a population of more than 100 million people. Witnesses said the victims had been eating beans, which presumably were contaminated in some way.

The phenomenon has become a national issue, with newspapers devoting whole pages into investigations of the "killer beans" some of them also call "mad beans".

The *Independent Concord* identified the culprit as a dry brown bean with a strong odor of kerosene. It said Lagos University toxicologist Kio Don Pedro supported its findings by confirming there was a type of legume with a smell of fuel on sale in the markets.

The radio in Oyo State near here broadcast appeals to the populace to stop eating beans until further notice so that a full investigation into the mysterious deaths could be completed.

Panic spread as rumors embroidered the press reports. Across the nation, bean fritters called "akara" in the south and "kosai" in the north are popular with all tribes.

But now the nutritious protein-rich and inexpensive dish has vanished from restaurants and canteens, and the market price for beans has plummeted.

The Association of Food Wholesalers in the state capital Ibadan, one of West Africa's biggest conurbations, gathered in force a week ago to solemnly munch a bean fritter each before assembled suspicious journalists. The display was unconvincing.

A press report from Abeokuta in Ogun State recorded the fate of a market mammy who was facing a lynching from a crowd which believed she had sold "poisoned beans" that apparently killed an adolescent. She took a bite of one of her own fritters and promptly expired, the report said.

The Lagos state military administrator, Colonel Mohammed Marwa, ate a couple of bean fritters for press cameras, flanked by members of his administration, and made front-page newspaper headlines as he blamed the deaths on cholera.

The Lagos state military administrator, Colonel Mohammed Marwa, ate a couple of bean fritters for press cameras, flanked by members of his administration, and made front-page newspaper headlines as he blamed the deaths on cholera.

One explanation for the sudden onset of severe symptoms is that some beans on the market are unfit for consumption because of contamination by pesticides.

The other theory is that the vomiting and diarrhoea are the initial signs of a cholera epidemic that has spread across Western and Central Africa in the past few months.

Things have come to such a pass that the influential and very sober-minded paper *The Guardian* urged the federal authorities to act quickly.

In an editorial headlined "Scare over killer beans", it said "The emergency is clearly beyond the capacity of the affected states to handle on their own. Too many speculations have been offered, further fuelling apprehension and confusion".

It recommended that the federal health and agriculture ministries "should mobilize their resources to track the distributive channels of the commodity and contain the spread of the scourge".

If the reports about the beans "are found to be untrue, the agencies should promptly allay the fears of the public," the paper added. (AFP)

Dhaka Faces Serious Drinking Water Problems

DHAKA — An alarming drop in ground water tables and potentially fatal arsenic contamination are posing a serious threat to drinking water supplies in Bangladesh, according to authorities.

As demand for water increases, rivers are drying up and unstable ground water conditions render ineffective the installation of new pumps.

"Despite the growing demand for water at an annual rate of six percent, installation of new tube wells (deep water pumps) has become risky due to ecological problems," one official of Dhaka's state-run Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) said.

Another WASA official, Kabir Ahmed, said 130 million liters (34 million gallons) of water was being readied for supply every day against an estimated daily demand of 840 million liters.

Mizanur Rahman, a senior official of the state-owned Water Development Board, said: "Our statistics show that over the years the ground water level is constantly depleting with increasing daily use."

"Even during the recent heavy monsoon, no change was reflected in the ground water table."

Ahmed said WASA was constructing a water treatment plant on the Shitalakkhya River, which passes Dhaka, to reduce pressure on ground water supplies.

The World Bank and the French government are providing $175 million for the project, due to be completed by 2010.

The plant will initially produce 225 million liters daily from 1998 and, after completion, should produce 900 million liters a day.

Rahman said arsenic contamination of ground water had poisoned supplies and affected levels in several Bangladeshi districts.

"The arsenic compounds possibly become oxidized during long periods.... the gases cause contamination of the ground water," he said.

Officials at Dhaka's Institute of Postgraduate Medicine and Research said they were treating 126 patients from nine districts, including Dhaka, for the effects of arsenic contamination.

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf earlier confirmed the deaths of two people from arsenic contamination in southern Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is crossed by more than 230 rivers, mostly originating in neighboring India and flowing into the Bay of Bengal, but many are gradually drying up, making the country more dependent on ground water.

The government has repeatedly blamed India for the situation, accusing its giant neighbor of cutting Bangladesh's water supply by unilaterally siphoning water from their common rivers, including the building of a dam on the major Ganges River.

After coming to power in June, Bangladesh's new government started fresh talks with India for a "rightful" share of the Ganges water and technical level talks are currently underway in New Delhi.

A ministerial level meeting was expected to be held in December, subject to the results of negotiations over the coming months. (AFP)

Philips Sets Up Research Center in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Dutch conglomerate Philips Electronics NV is setting up an independent Asia-Pacific research center in Singapore to support manufacturing activities in the region, company officials announced Monday.

Philips would invest 62.5 million Singapore dollars (U.S.$44.6 million) in five years to upgrade an existing satellite facility for manufacturing technology into a full-fledged regional research and development center, a statement said.

The new center would in turn set up satellite operations, starting with an operation in Suzhou, a new Chinese industrial township off Shanghai.

The program is supported by Singapore's National Science and Technology Board (NSTB), which provides grants and other incentives to encourage more research and development activities in the city-state.

"Philips is committed to transfer more manufacturing research and support activities to Singapore," said Victor Loh, chairman and president of Philips Singapore, citing the "generous support" of the NSTB to research projects.

The new regional research center will cover parts processing, circuit technology, production systems, development support, patterns and layers, measurements and inspection, the statement said.

It will also be a training center for research engineers across the region.

Last week, Philips announced that it would invest U.S.$1.5 billion in five years to expand manufacturing facilities across the region, which now accounts for 30 percent of the country's global sales and profits.

Global pre-tax profit reached $2.6 billion in 1995 on sales of $42 billion. (AFP)



NEW YORK, United States (September 30): Palestinians and supporters protest against recent violence in occupied territories in across the street from the Israeli consulate in New York. Some 200 people gathered to show support for Palestinians and condemn recent actions by the Israeli government.

(AFP PHOTO)

China Warns Wealth Gap Still Widening



BEIJING — China warned that the wealth chasm between booming eastern regions and the impoverished interior was still widening despite efforts to narrow it.

"As the east has surged ahead economically at an annual growth rate of more than 16 percent, the rest of the country has managed only nine percent and the wealth gap between China's east and west is widening," Xinhua said in a commentary.

China's State Development Bank has already provided 55 billion yuan ($6.6 billion) in low interest loans for underdeveloped regions this year, the news agency said.

In addition, three major infrastructure projects -- the three gorges dam in central China, the Ertan Dam in Sichuan and railway construction in the far western Province of Xinjiang -- are underway.

According to the *China Daily*, foreign investment in the interior has also risen fast, reaching $38 billion in 1995, triple the 1991 figure.

But most of the 65 million Chinese who live below Beijing's poverty line are in western China, and China's goal of eliminating poverty by 2000 looks increasingly remote.

"For the world's largest developing country, it will indeed be an unparalleled feat if indeed poverty becomes history by that time," the news agency said. (AFP)



Nearly 700 Landless Peasants Take Over Brazilian Farm

RIO DE JANEIRO — Nearly 700 peasants belonging to the rural Landless Workers' Movement (MST) took over a huge ranch some 700 kilometers (434 miles) west of Sao Paulo.

Jose Rainha Junior, MST leader in the Pontal do Paranapanema region, said the occupation marks the start of an MST campaign to speed up agrarian reform on the eve of the municipal elections set for October 3.

He added that, women in the group plan to disrupt Banco de Brasil branch offices to pressure authorities to release money set aside for the relocation of families on a plot of land.

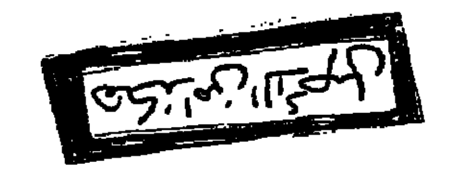
The peasants invaded the property at dawn, less than one week after they had abandoned it under court order.

Gilberto Portes de Oliveira, president of the MST, had warned in early September that small, sporadic conflicts over land in Brazil could escalate as peasants lose the little confidence they had in the government's promise to give 60,000 landless families plots to work.

Clashes over land taken by squatters left 74 people dead between January 1995 and June 1996, according to the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) linked to the Roman Catholic Church.

Most of the land conflicts are rooted in the chasm that exists in the distribution of land in Brazil: one percent of landowners owns 46 percent of the land in this country larger than Mainland United States.

Meanwhile 53 percent of the rural population owns three percent of the land, according to the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics. (AFP)



Asia Fears Economic Backlash From Return of Workers



COLOMBO — Poor Asian countries heaved a collective sigh of relief following the United Arab Emirates' decision to extend a deadline for an estimated 200,000 illegal immigrants to legalize their stay or leave.

Saturday's extension of a September 30 amnesty until October 31 for illegal immigrant workers came as fears grew in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Philippines that their return could harm economies and spawn social problems.

Remittances from maids and blue collar workers in the oil-rich Persian Gulf states are the main source of foreign exchange for most of the nations, as well as the main income for their families back home.

"Our plan was that I would earn the money to build a house while my husband stayed back and looked after the children," said T.G. Lalitha shortly after arriving at the Colombo Airport from Abu Dhabi. "Unfortunately, it was all a dream."

In Sri Lanka, where expatriate remittances have surpassed exports of tea and gemstones as the number one foreign exchange earner, officials were hoping for a quick resumption of the inflow of petrodollars.

"I feel in a matter of months, most of them will go back," Nissanka Wijeratne, chairman of the Bureau of Foreign Employment, said. "They have contacts there, they speak the language and they have the experience. They shouldn't have a problem going back."

Remittances from the 500,000 Sri Lankan workers in the Middle East are expected to contribute 47 billion rupees ($839 million) to the country's coffers this year, up from 41 billion last year, Wijeratne said.

The income represents nearly six percent of Sri Lanka's gross national product.

Officials in Bangladesh, which expects the return of more than 30,000 illegal workers, spoke of the need to send many back.

"We will definitely have to relocate as many people in other countries. We can't give up foreign employment because it is one of our main Forex earners," a Foreign Ministry official said.

India's southern state of Kerala will be among the hardest hit with about 30,000 returning illegal workers joining the state's already massive unemployed list of five million.

"The post office economy of the state will be badly hit when remittances from the Persian Gulf dwindle," said Kerala's Planning Board Vice Chairman I.S. Gulati. Many Persian Gulf workers from Kerala send their relatives money by postal orders payable at post offices.

Their remittances play a key role in the state's economic development that includes booming construction activity.

"Land and real estate prices are likely to crash in the near future," said a planning board official.

Indian officials estimate an annual drop of one billion rupees ($28.20 million) in remittances from the Persian Gulf in Kerala alone.

The Philippines, with about 10,000 of more than four million expatriate workers illegally staying in the emirates, said it was moving to reduce its reliance on such uncertain income sources.

Manila officials said they were drawing up retraining programs for returnees to help them get new jobs overseas and also reabsorb them into the economy.

The Philippines faces another possible exodus from Hong Kong where the fate of 140,000 Filipino maids would be in the hands of China at the end of next June when Britain is due to hand its colony back to Beijing.

"Our aim is to prepare them for their eventual reintegration into the economic mainstream so that as our economy expands, we are able to cut down our dependence on overseas workers' remittances," Overseas Workers Welfare Administrator Wilhelm Soriano said.

The Philippines is projecting a $7 billion inflow from its overseas workers this year, up from $4.9 billion in 1995. (AFP)

Finland to Host Smoke Free Europe Conference

HELSINKI — Some 500 experts from 50 countries were due to gather in Helsinki Wednesday for the opening of a three-day conference aimed at promoting a smoke-free Europe, organizers said.

Among the subjects to be discussed are ways of reducing the number of tobacco smokers in Europe, as well as the skyrocketing number of smokers in Eastern and Central Europe in recent years and the resulting health problems.

The conference is organized by Finnish health authorities with the cooperation of the World Health Organization and Europe Against Cancer. (AFP)

The Post-Miracle Phase

Part 2

First pt.: appeared on yesterday's issue.

The most pressing reality is sheer economic survival. South Africa is battling 40% unemployment: suffers a budget deficit amounting to 5% of its $118 billion gross domestic product: and must compete for business in the international marketplace with the likes of Brazil. Chile. Indonesia and South Korea. where economies are growing at warp speed. Four decades of international disinvestment. coupled with political and economic mismanagement by the pre-apartheid National Party. has left South Africa ill prepared for the challenge.

South Africa's old rulers created a costly bureaucracy as a jobs program for favored whites and instituted a punitive tax regime and exchange controls to keep revenues in South Africa. They neglected housing. health and welfare programs in favor of such brutal and costly nonsense as black homelands, a police force designed to combat political dissent instead of crime. and separate and grossly unequal education systems. One result: between 1981 and 1993, per capita income decreased 20% in real terms. Another outcome: three decades ago. the return on investment was roughly the same for foreign companies doing business in South Africa or Asia: today it's 10 times higher in the Far East.

For all the good feelings generated by South Africa's political transformation. there are no shortcuts if the country is to make the transition to full economic maturity. To overcome its legacy of discrimination and neglect. South Africa must above all create conditions for sustainable growth. On the basis of what's already been accomplished. success is clearly possible. Not only is the nation resilient. but the ANC has come a long way from its days as a liberation movement. In government the party has shown a promarked orientation at odds with its socialist background. Black-white relations are encouraging. Fear of a right-wing backlash has all but abated. "To go from basically a communist organization to embrace a market system in 2.1/2 years is remarkable." says Len van Zyl. chairman of Lindsay Smithers, one of South Africa's leading advertising agencies.



The government has adopted the right pragmatic framework. Now. as Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Jay Naidoo acknowledges. "the time has come to deliver." That means delivering jobs and an educated work force and a climate to generate investor confidence. as well as boosting productivity. curtailing Labor Union demands, restoring a stable currency. reducing the budget and ensuring political stability when Mandela steps down.

A tall order. And all this must be done as thousands of illegal immigrants and rural blacks stream into shantytowns each month. Sadly and ironically. the apartheidera ghettos of the past are still swelling with a population surge that adds 1 million people a year to the 41 million who already live in South Africa.

If South Africa can meet those objectives, it may yet become the global player it has always been capable of becoming. But if not, the nation will end up not the best hope and commercial engine for sub-Saharan Africa but one more poor. illiterate. overpopulated and unstable country.

While it is almost heresy to say so. Mandela is part of the problem. An extraordinary natural leader who inspires confidence and calm, he has also become an overadulated icon. "People must stop worshipping Mandela," says a senior diplomat who knows him well. "He knows nothing about economics. so they must say. 'Look, if you won't do something about economic growth, at least designate people who will."

At first Mandela's coalition government of national unity did that. The business and investment communities were delighted in 1994 and 1995 when the government named internationally respected whiles to two important posts: Derek Keys as Finance Minister and Chris Stals at the Central Bank. But on March 28 of this year, after the resignation of

Christo Liebenberg, who bad replaces keys in Septmber 1994.

Mandela took a high-risk step. He handed the finance portfolio to Trevor Manuel. an ANC member who had been a solid minister of trade and industry but whose former communist sympathies have inspired little confidence in international financial circles. "It was done very hurriedly." says a British banker with close ties to South Africa. "He was sent off on a trip around the world to reassure them because he does not give the impression of great rigor."

What Manuel did, in fact, was unnerve an already jittery international investment community. Even before Manuel's return home. rumors began flying about Mandela's health. while currency markets began dumping the rand and bailing out of South African stocks. Tensions eased only when the president underwent a hospital checkup and was pronounced remarkably fit, but nonetheless, over the next six weeks: the value of the rand fell 20% against the U.S. dollar.

After the currency took another sharp hit in early August, hope dimmed that exchange controls might be lifted soon. A legacy of the apartheid era, the exchange restrictions signal that South Africa is not quite ready to enter the modern era of the global economy. Says Tony Mason, a South African builder: "The leap of faith they can't make is recognizing that if you could take money out, the next day funds would start coming in."

Nobody knows for sure, but it's safe to say that South Africa has once again started to attract international investors and might attract even more if exchange controls were dismantled. Institutional investors began pulling money into the country immediately after the 1994 election. but much of the inflow was in the form of speculative portfolio investments rather than the new factories and other productive assets the country needs. Sniffs Hugh Peatling. managing director of Diners' Club (South Africa): "There is great disappointment that outsiders have not come in with solid structural investment."

The investors have largely come from Europe. led by Britain's Lonrho. the Netherlands' GEC Alsthom. Germany's Volkswagen and Switzerland's Nestle. Currently 19 of South Africa's top 20 foreign employers are European. The U.S. response to change has been disappointing. Sara Lee. ranking 13th with 4,047 workers. is the only American company to make the upper tier.

Nonetheless. the U.S. presence has been increasing. According to the Investor Responsibility Research Center in Washington. 262 U.S. firms — among them IBM, Reebok and Merck — are doing business in South Africa. compared with only 104 when Mandela was released from detection in 1991. But the rub is that while the number of U.S. firms may be approaching pre-embargo levels. the real-dollar value of investments remains around 85% of what it was before disinvestment.

"South Africa expected the U.S. back in a big way. but it's not happening." says Peter DeSimone. the IIRC's research analyst for South Africa. U.S. firms are primarily buying back abandoned subsidiaries and returning as managers. not manufacturers.

(To be conted)

Chronology of Events Leading to Middle East Crisis

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Highlights of events in Israel and the West Bank since Benjamin Netanyahu became Israel's prime minister just over 100 days ago that have led to the current Middle East crisis:



June 18 - Netanyahu, the right-wing Likud leader who ousted Labor Party Prime Minister Shimon Peres in May elections, takes office promising to promote peace with security with Israel's Arab neighbors.

June 28 - Netanyahu sends two representatives to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in what senior PLO official calls 'first official contact' with new Israeli government.

July 23 - Arafat meets Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy in Gaza in first high-level meeting since Netanyahu took office.

Aug. 2 - Netanyahu infuriates Palestinians by lifting a four-year freeze on West Bank Jewish settlement expansion imposed by the previous government.

Aug. 9 - Israel says no progress on peace moves until Palestinian authority shuts offices in Arab east Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Aug. 11 - Arafat threatens Israel with international arbitration if his peace goals are frustrated.

Aug. 22 - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak vows to cancel Middle East Economic Conference in November if Israel stalls on peace.

Aug. 25 - Bowing to Israeli demands, Arafat's Palestinian authority shuts two east Bait-ul-Moqaddas offices.

Aug. 27 - Israel hoists bulldozer over Bait-ul-Moqaddas' old city wall to demolish Palestinian community center it said was built without permit.

Aug. 28 - Arafat says Israel declared war on Palestinians with settlement expansion.

Aug. 29 - Palestinians hold first general strike in West Bank and Gaza in two years to protest at Israeli policy heads of Israeli-PLO Steering Committee on implemention of interim peace deals hold first meeting since Netanyahu took office.

Sept. 1 - Israeli and PLO negotiators launch Marathon talks with Norwegian mediation aimed at Netanyahu-Arafat meeting.

Sept. 4 - Netanyahu and Arafat hold first summit, at Erez Crossing between Israel and Gaza.

Sept. 24 - Israeli government opens tourist tunnel near Islamic holy site, igniting protests reminiscent of Palestinian uprising and further souring relations with Arab states.

Sept. 25 - Israeli soldiers kill five Palestinians and wound about 300 during protests in West Bank town of Ramallah.

Sept. 26 - Thirty-nine Palestinians and 11 Israelis die in clashes that force Netanyahu to cut short by several hours a three-day European visit and return home. It is the worst violence since Israel and the PLO signed a peace deal in 1993.

Sept. 27 - Seven Palestinians and three Israelis killed in the West Bank. Gaza Strip and Arab east Bait-ul-Moqaddas. Three of the Palestinians shot dead during stone-throwing protest outside Al-Aqsa Mosque of Bait-ul-Moqaddas, Islam's third holiest shrine. Three Palestinians, shot a day earlier, die of their wounds.

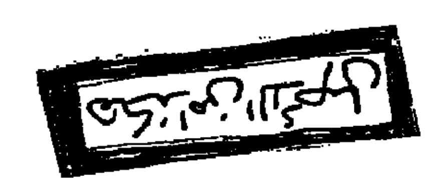
Sept. 28 - Arab shot dead in Gaza but Palestinian police keep lid on protests in most of the West Bank and Gaza. Netanyahu pledges in speech to Christian supporters of Israel to keep the Bait-ul-Moqaddas tunnel open.

Sept. 29 - U.S. President Bill Clinton invites Netanyahu, Arafat, Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to White House summit tentatively scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sept. 30 - Netanyahu flies to Washington, pledging nonstop talks after the summit on implementing long-delayed Israeli troop redeployment in West Bank city of Al-Khalil. Arafat meets Mubarak in Egypt but fails to persuade him to attend the summit. *(Reuter)*



BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Palestinian youth, supervised by Israeli policemen, demonstrate at the Al-Ram roadblock on the northern entrance to Bait-ul-Moqaddas, against the closure of the West Bank.



Agaahgar, Compact Information Network of Domestic Commerce

An Interview With Engineer Nasrollah Mostofi, Member of Board of Directors and Deputy President of "Raahbar" Information Services Co., Affiliated to the Institute of Commercial Studies and Researches



Q: What is "Agaahgar" network of commerce? What services does it render?

A: This network started its activity in 1995 in all commercial fields with the aim of creating a suitable information source to facilitate pursuing commercial affairs for all the businessmen of the country. Following identification and gathering necessary information for different business sectors, and with the aim of completing the data, we could offer services for the interested in the shortest time possible. Some of the services may be outlined as the following:

Registration of commercial orders, exchange rates, commercial circulars, daily commercial bulletin including exchange rates and the latest information on stock market. Due to the efficiency of the network and the fact that this network can well play its role as a basic means of facilitating commercial ends, other related organizations transferred their computerized or uncomputerized data to the institute. The information was in turn offered to private and public sectors. Information on transport organizations is a good example in this regard.

Q: How is the subscription routine for the network?

A: The subscription routine is so easy for all personal and legal entities. After filling out the subscription forms the subscriber will be connected to the network immediately.

There will be free of charge software and training classes for the subscribers by Raahbar Information Services Company.

For connection to the network the subscribers should have a modem and a telephone line at least. The network is designed in a way that all subscribers can easily have access to the data in the shortest time possible. Also the personnel of the company are ready answering questions on the network ant time. This network renders services day and night.

Q: What was the purpose behind establishing this network?

A: The prime objective was to create a strong information center to ready facilities for the commercial sector, set up a new information route for the promotion of exports and imports, specially non-oil exports. Of course, Note 26 of the Second Five-Year Development Plan on the commercial information sector was another motif behind establishing this network. Improving commercial efficiency of the country, creating on-time and easy access to the latest global commercial data with lower costs and minimum time, are among other factors considered in the creation of the company. Of course, this company offers special services for the businessmen, details of which are out of the domain of this interview. Generally speaking, the businessmen can have global business reports and data at their disposal by a telephone line and a modem.

The network has been welcomed by the businesspersons and private & public organizations nationwide.

Q: What kind of information do you render to your subscribers?

A: In the central site of the network, the gathered data are classified, then entered into the network to maintain up-to-dateness of the data.

Also the *Book of Import and Export Regulations*, magazine of *Commercial Surveys. Daily Commercial Bulletin* (compiled from domestic and foreign sources), formal exchange rates taken from authorized sources, stock exchange market and all the news about it, customs information, insurance and domestic transport organizations are also stored in the network. The company has made plans to enter business data on the regional countries into the network.

Connection of all provincial general offices of commerce to Agaahgar network is among other plans to be materialized by the company in near future. The move enables exchange of data among different provinces of the country. That is to say, a businessman in Khuzestan province, for instance, can exchange commercial information with his colleague in Chaharmahal Bakhteyari or any other province.

Q: What activities do you perform in international levels?

A: In line with non-oil export policies of the Islamic Republic government, following the talks with the head of United Nations Institute for Regional Trade Development in Melbourne, Australia, as well as feasibility studies, we introduced "electronics trade opportunities". These messages are transferred by tens of millions of trade sites as factories, exporters, importers, buyers and sellers, etc.

Regarding the fact that these messages are transferred by the trade sites (GTPNET), the users are only private and public sectors from around the world. For example, a producer can market or evaluate his commodity advertise it before exporting.

In this system there is no commercial broker. Connection of Agaahgar to international network, has enabled this mighty apparatus to accomplish its objective fully — non-oil export. In this international network, the seller markets or even advertises his product before sale to find the best customer and vice versa.

Regarding the fact that in most of the advanced countries, and in the field of trade, all of the documents are exchanged via EDIFACT method, the company launched feasibility studies to design and transfer the information in a way that it could be understandable to the developed countries in the form of EDIFACT. Therefore, transferring trade opportunities through Agaahgar network to different corners of the globe is quite possible. All the processes have been designed by experts and engineers in the company, to enable the subscribers to send their announcements and specifications of their products to international markets.

In other words, the businesspersons can exchange their data or even advertisements in their desired form.

As it was mentioned earlier, the accomplishments are in line with non-export policies of the government.

Of other steps taken in international arena, I'd like to refer to the creation of state commercial data in the graphic lay out of the Internet. This site is active at the moment.



Subscribers can send their pictorial data as: name of the product, specifications of the product along with other graphic pictures to the data users around the world.

Similar measure may be cited as the creation of the same possibility in the United Nations' data bank which enables the subscribers to have access to the latest commercial data.

Q: Is it possible to carry on distant business through Agaahgar network?

A: Distant barter by Agaahgar was created following incessant efforts by the experts to offer services for the facilitation of commercial activities which have a positive aftermath for the country.

In this regard, to render better services for the subscribers, the company has had talks with domestic banks on assuring buying and selling to enable its members to carry out business through these channels. In near future, one of the affiliated companies of Ministry of Commerce will start selling its products through Agaahgar network for the first time in the country.

Q: Has the network had any success in international arena?

A: We had applications for subscription from many foreign entrepreneurs, which shows the domain of activities undertaken by the company. The same applications are received day by day and after preliminary inspection, they are approved.

And also many of the international commercial organizations who possess data banks in Internet, are accessible by Agaahgar network.

Another characteristic of Agaahgar to be mentioned here is easy access to electronics mail (E-mail). The trend of transforming E-mail to telex and fax with the capability of transferring it to international sites will be met in near future.

Tenders and bids form another part of the network. The businesspersons can negotiate on these activities via the network easily.

In case the subscribers cannot find the needed information on the network, they can E-mail their requests. The required information will be E-mailed to them as soon as possible.

For further details, the subscribers and the interested may contact 6439213 or via fax No. 6439212. In addition, Agaahgar is provided with Farsi and Latin languages for the Iranian and foreign subscribers.

With respect to the facilities created by Iran Data Communications Center affiliated to the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone (P.T.T.), in many cities of the country, their citizens can be connected to Agaahgar netwoAGAH.DOCk free of distant call charges.

Q: Do you have plans to link Agaahgar with other international networks?

A: In the interval of the talks with foreign networks, we are being liked to Singapore commercial information network, which is one of the largest trade information networks of the world. The preliminary technical steps to enable the businessmen in Singapore to enter the network by a call, have been taken.

One of the eye-catching measures is holding training courses on trade efficiency by Agaahgar network and granting advanced licenses (Advanced Certificate on Trade Efficiency) by Australian Royal Institute for Trade Efficiency through the United Nations site. In this relation technical inspections have been made with the collaboration of Research and Development Section of Melbourne Royal Institute and Training Center of Institute of Commercial Researches and Studies. The location of the courses will be in the training center of the institute. The routine of the work will run in this way: The students will pass necessary credits and receive certificate via Agaahgar network.

Q: Please talk a little about the security of information in Agaahgar network?

A: The security of information in the network is met with special passwords, by which the subscriber enters or exits the information. The passwords are replaceable by the subscribers themselves from faraway sites. Agaahgar has no background on the passwords.

Q: How is the possibility of linking Agaahgar with other domestic networks?

A: All networks nationwide enjoying a similar command are accessible by Agaahgar. Of course, networks intending to be liked with Agaahgar should bear required standards, reliable information, plus on time and up-to-date data.

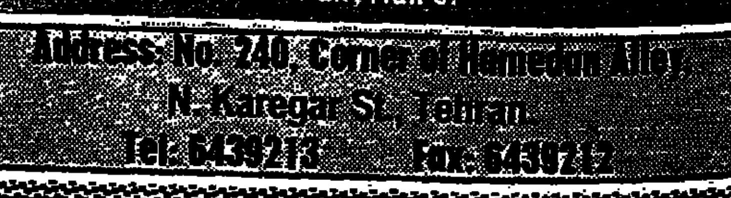
In the Name of God
Ministry of Commerce
Institute of Commercial Studies and Researches
Raahbar Information Services Company
Agaahgar Network Subscription Form

Full name	Father's Name
Date of Birth	Nationality
Occupation	Post
Type of Activity	
Address	
Tel:	Fax:

Please answer the following
1- Type of computer
2- Modem speed

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International Spectrum
A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue
THU., OCT. 3, 1996; MEHR 12, 1375; JAMADIAL-AWAL 19, 1417

Iran Spectrum
A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

World News

Wednesday, September 25.

Iranian Foreign Minister Signs CTBT



Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Taleban Militia Enter Kabul Suburbs



The Taleban militia Wednesday entered Kabul's eastern suburbs and fighting was raging only a few kilometers from the city center.

Hashimoto Takes Japan's Bid for Permanent Seat to UN

Taking Japan's campaign to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council directly to General Assembly, Japanese Prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Tuesday pledged a more activist role in the UN's governing body.

NATO Ministers Planning New Bosnia Force

NATO defense ministers took a significant step on Wednesday towards keeping thousands of troops in Bosnia next year after the mandate of the current peace mission runs out in December.

Thursday, September 26

Kabul Falls to Taleban



A victorious Taleban militia seized the Afghan capital Kabul after a three-day offensive Friday, and hanged the country's former communist President Najibullah in their first public act.

Perception of West on Iran 'Clouded', Says UK MP

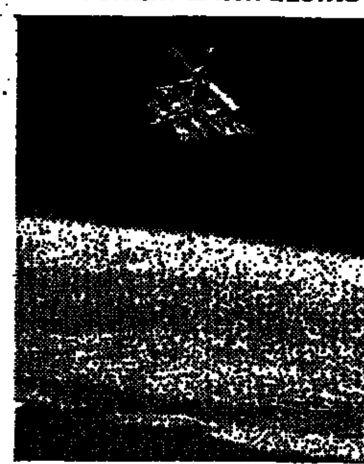
Liberal Democrat MP, Emma Nicholson blames British hostility in some quarters to the humanitarian assistance she provides for Iraqi refugees on her working in partnership with Iran and the Iranian people.

European Leaders Call For Netanyahu-Arafat Summit



Britain, France and Germany have issued a joint appeal for a summit between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, the French presidency said.

Atlantis Lands, Record-Setting Astronaut Back Home



The Russian space station Mir over the earth as seen from the US space shuttle Atlantis as the shuttle moves away from the station. The Atlantis and her new crew brought Shannon Lucid back to earth September 26 after her record setting six-month stay in space on the Mir.

Friday, September 27

Burma Junta Detains Opposition Activists

Burmese military authorities detained an unknown number of opposition activists Friday ahead of the planned three-day meeting at the home of Aung San Suu Kyi, opposition sources said.

Ferocious Battle Claims 525 Lives in Sri Lanka

Government forces killed at least 450 Tamil Tiger guerrillas and lost 75 soldiers in the bloodiest ever counteroffensive launched by the guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka, the Defense Ministry said Friday.

Japanese Parliament Dissolved, Cabinet Adopts October 20 Election Date



Japan's Lower House of Parliament was dissolved Friday on the orders of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, setting the stage for the first election in almost three and a half years on October 20.

U.N. Grants Iran $ 17m for Ozone Protection Project

The United Nations granted $ 17 million to Iran in order to prevent use of chlorofluourocarbons (CFCs) which destroy the ozone layer.

Saturday, September 28

Afghan Militia Says it Takes Provincial Capital

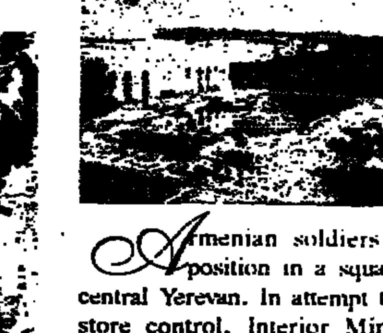
Afghanistan's Taleban militia said it had captured the Parwan province capital of Charicar north of Kabul on Saturday, driving out the forces of the ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani, a Pakistani-based Afghan news service reported.

Arab States Demand End to Israeli 'Aggression'



Saudi Arabia accused Israel on Saturday of failing to live up to its peace agreements and called on the international community to halt 'aggression' by the Israeli troops against the Palestinian population.

Unrest in Armenia After Presidential Election



Armenian soldiers take position in a square in central Yerevan. In attempt to restore control, Interior Ministry troops, tanks and armored personnel carriers sealed off the main key points of the town after a group of demonstrators stormed the Parliament in protest to the defeat of the opposition leader Vazgen Manukian against President Levon Ter-Petrossian in last Sunday's election.

Car Bomb Blast Kills 27, Injures 77 inAlgeria



Youths stand near a house damaged when a car bomb exploded at a bustling market in Boufarik, 20 kilometers south of Algiers. The bomb blast has claimed 27 lives so far, and of the 77 people injured, ten are still in the critical list at a hospital.

Sunday, September 29

Ortega Campaigning for Nicaraguan Presidency



The former Nicaraguan presidential candidate Daniel Ortega of the Sandinista Front was at campaign rally held in Sebaco in Nicaragua. Ortega is the favored candidate against liberal Arnoldo Aleman and hopes to win the general elections which will take place around October 20.

Arafat, Mubarak Demand Conditions Before Summit

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, in remarks published Sunday, demanded the closure of a controversial tunnel in Bait-ul-Moqaddas and a timetable for implementing the autonomy accords before meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Pakistan Welcomes Taleban Govt

Pakistan on Sunday welcomed the new Taleban government in Kabul saying it hopes the Islamic militia would provide clean and honest leadership they did elsewhere in Afghanistan.

Monday, September 30

Taleban Soldiers Pursue President, Enter Panjshir

Taleban fighters hounded Afghan government leaders they called 'war criminals' and extended their control over more territory Monday.

Tuesday, October 1

Arab Foreign Ministers Skeptical About Summit

Arab foreign ministers expressed scepticism on Monday about the outcome of a planned meeting in Washington between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Local News

Wednesday, September 25.

Iran's Proposal to Set Up Secretariat for Asian Women Welcomed

The Women's Department at the President's Office said here on Tuesday Iranian proposal on setting up a permanent secretariat for promotion of women's status was welcomed by representatives of 21 states from Asia and the Pacific held in Seoul, South Korea recently.

Thursday, September 26

Ruhani: Presence of Foreign Forces in Region a Warning

The Majlis First Vice-Speaker, Hojjatoleslam Hassan Ruhani, said here on Thursday that unprecedented presence of foreign troops in the region and the gross violation of the international conventions by the big powers are taken as a warning by Iran.

Friday, September 27



A Three-Day IRGC 'Tharallah' Camping Activity

Tharallah Command Post of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) under the commandership of the Deputy Commander of IRGC, Brigadier General Seyyed Rahim Safavi, organized a three-day camping activity for the five forces: the ground forces, air force, the navy, disciplinary force and Basij (Volunteer Mobilization Force).

Saturday, September 28

President Awards Top Students, Instructors



President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here on Saturday received the elite students and instructors who had scored top points in the international science olympiads.

Sunday, September 29

Next President Should Pursue Same Goals of Development, Social Justice

Head of the Majlis' Health and Welfare Committee, Seyyed Shahabuddin Sadr, here told *Tehran Times* that the next president should wholeheartedly pursue the national goals of construction, development and social justice.

Monday, September 30

President to Inaugurate 22nd International Fair

President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is to inaugurate the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair here Monday.

Tuesday, October 1

Leader Emphasizes Importance of Cultural Activities

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei here on Monday emphasized the significance of purposeful and well-disciplined cultural work.



Noise Is Slowly Turning Us Deaf

Nobody realizes the problems noise pollution can cause because they are not visible," points out Dr. Y. T. Oke who, along with other concerned citizens, registered the first case in Mumbai against noise pollution (specifically from loudspeakers) in September 1995. "Think of a commuter taking a rickshaw to the station, then being exposed to the sound of trains — almost the same levels — and returning home where noise outside persists," says Dr. Oke. "The noise levels in Mumbai are routinely in the region of 85 to 110 decibels (dB), far above the WHO limit of 45 dB.

The effects of prolonged exposure to sound are both physical and psychological, and have been researched in depth in other countries, leading to the strict enforcement of noise control.

Sudden, intense sounds like a cracker going off can cause reversible or permanent damage to hearing. Importantly, permanent damage (hearing loss) does not necessarily occur suddenly, but over a period of years. One environmental study in Pune showed that 80 percent of the traffic cops in their area of research were hearing-impaired. They also suffered a *high degree of personal psychological problems.*

In another study undertaken by Dr. D. M. Lipscomb at the University of Tennessee amongst 3,000 high school and 1,680 university students, it was found that *the hearing of many of these students* who were regularly exposed to loud music, motorbikes etc. had deteriorated to the level of the average 65-year-old. Meanwhile, studies among tribes in Sudan, and research by Dr. S. Kameshwaran on the Toda tribes of the Nilgiris show that the hearing of aged Toda and Sudanese tribals is comparable with that of younger people in urban industrial areas.

Hearing disabilities caused by noise pollution can be temporary or permanent. For instance, a person entering a very noisy area, may experience a measurable loss of hearing sensitivity, but will in all likelihood recover on returning to a quieter environment. But recovery will depend on the severity of the shift in hearing, the person's susceptibility, and the kind of exposure. If recovery is not complete before the next exposure, his hearing could suffer adversely.

Though hearing impairment is the most obvious fallout of noise pollution, continuous exposure to noise can also cause cardiovascular changes and constriction of blood vessels, leading to heart problems like arteriosclerosis as reported in Crete and the former Yugoslavia, a higher incidence of blood pressure was found amongst industrial workers in Russia.

"When you put yourself in a noisy environment — primarily to enjoy the noise — "points out Dr. Oke, "you are actually submitting the body to stress — which shows up in the increased activity of the endocrine glands, higher BP, heart rate and cortisone level in the blood." Apart from stress and fatigue, noise can also cause sleep disturbances.

"Noise stress studies show that industrial workers are prone to irritability, depression and anxiety, besides psychosomatic problems like ulcers and acidity," says neuropsychiatrist Dr. Rajesh Parikh of the *Jaslok Hospital*, Mumbai.

~~It also causes reduced atten-~~tion spans and concentration levels and a lowering of mental alertness to stimuli. Consequently it has an adverse impact on the learning capacities of children. Psychologically disturbed people are agitated by noise and silence has been proven to have a therapeutic effect on them.

A 65-year-old tribal can hear better than a teenager who subjects himself to loud music and noise levels which are routinely in excess of S5 decibels.

Hearing loss amongst workers in noisy industries has been reported for over a century, but the problem has been extensively studied only recently. Over the past four decades, several reports have been published on occupational hearing loss amongst workers in heavy industry, transportation etc. Almost every study revealed that noise induced deafness. Considerable hearing loss was frequent at higher frequencies.

(Courtesy the Sunday Review)

Decibels (dB)

A decibel is a logarithm of ratio of the sound pressure experienced to the reference pressure(which is the threshold of hearing). It is a unit for expressing the intensity of sound on a scale from zero (for the average least perceptible sound) to about 130 for the average pain level. Even small values in dB levels mean large differences in terms of sound pressure. For example, the sound pressure at 120 dB is a hundred times more than at 80 dB. An increase of just three dB means there is a doubling of sound pressure.

Relation between sound pressure and dB.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

100	1,000	10,000	100,000	10,00,000	100,00,000
Bird singing	Quiet room (library)	Typing	Carhorn	Powerdrill	Airplane taking off

Recommended noise exposure limits (World Health Organisation - 199[illegible])

Environment Max-level	Recommended	Effects
Indoor/domestic Night-time	35dB	Increased awakening at higher levels
Indoor/domestic Daytime	45dB	Speech communication deteriorates at higher levels
Community/Urban Night-time	45dB	Difficulties in falling asleep at higher levels
Community Urban Daytime	55dB	Annoyance increases at higher levels
Industrial occupational	75dB	Predictable risk of hearing impairment at higher levels.

(Noise levels in a city like Mumbai are routinely in the region of 85-110dB)

Entertaining in Style



Chilled Cheesecake

You will need...

12 oz. carton cottage cheese, sieved
1/4 pint single cream
4 level teaspoons powdered gelatine (1/2 oz.)
4 tablespoons cold water
2 large lemons
3 eggs, separated
4 oz. castor sugar
1/4 pint double cream, lightly whipped
10 digestive biscuits, crushed
1 oz. demerara sugar
2 oz. butter, melted
For the decoration:
4 oz. red currants

Preparation time
35 minutes

Butter an 8-inch deep cake tin. Line first the sides, then the base with greaseproof paper. Mix cottage cheese with single cream. Dissolve gelatine with water in a small bowl placed over a pan of simmering water, place lemon juice and rind, egg yolks and sugar in a large bowl over a pan of simmering water. Whisk until thick and foamy, then remove from heat and whisk until cool.

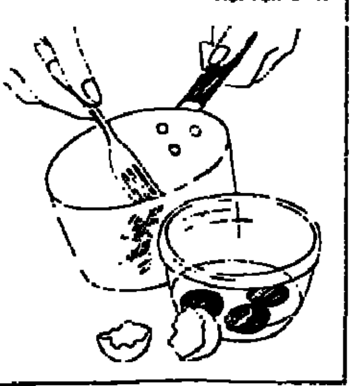
Blend together egg yolk mixture, gelatine and cottage cheese mixture. Leave until thick but not set. Fold in whisked egg whites and double cream. Turn into prepared tin. Chill until set.

Blend together biscuits, demerara sugar and butter. Sprinkle over cheesecake. Press down lightly. Chill until firm. Turn cheesecake out on to a 10-inch plate. Remove paper. Top with bunches of red currants.

Serves 6-8.

QUICK TIP

Using up egg yolks: if they are not needed at once cover with a layer of water. Use to enrich a white sauce or soup, for homemade mayonnaise or custard, or to add to scrambled egg.



A Spoonful of Malt

Must you force children to have malt drinks and *health boosters mixed in* their milk? If print and media ads are to be believed, they mean extra energy, vitality and good health the moment you down your glass.

A scientific analysis will, however reveal that most of these tonics and malt drinks are collection of a few vitamins with some carbohydrate and protein. The amounts vary from one brand to the other. And whatever goodness they might contain is nothing that cannot be supplied by a healthy, balanced meal every day.

Instead concentrate on giving your children a balanced meal for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Let them feed on pulses, cereals, fresh fruits, green leafy vegetables and salads in plenty. What they must get from whatever they want to eat is plenty of carbohydrates, fat, proteins and vitamins.

Strange though it may sound, an overdose of malt drinks and tonics could actually have an adverse effect on your health. If consumed for a long period of time, they may end up being harmful. To cite one instance, if an iron-enriched tonic or malt drink is consumed for long duration, an excess of iron may get deposited in different organs of the body.

Similarly, an overdose of vitamins over a long period of time could end up with fat-soluble vitamins getting dissolved in the fats present in the body.

Use these tonics and malt drinks only if prescribed by the doctor to overcome deficiencies. Otherwise, you may just end up wasting your body could well do without.

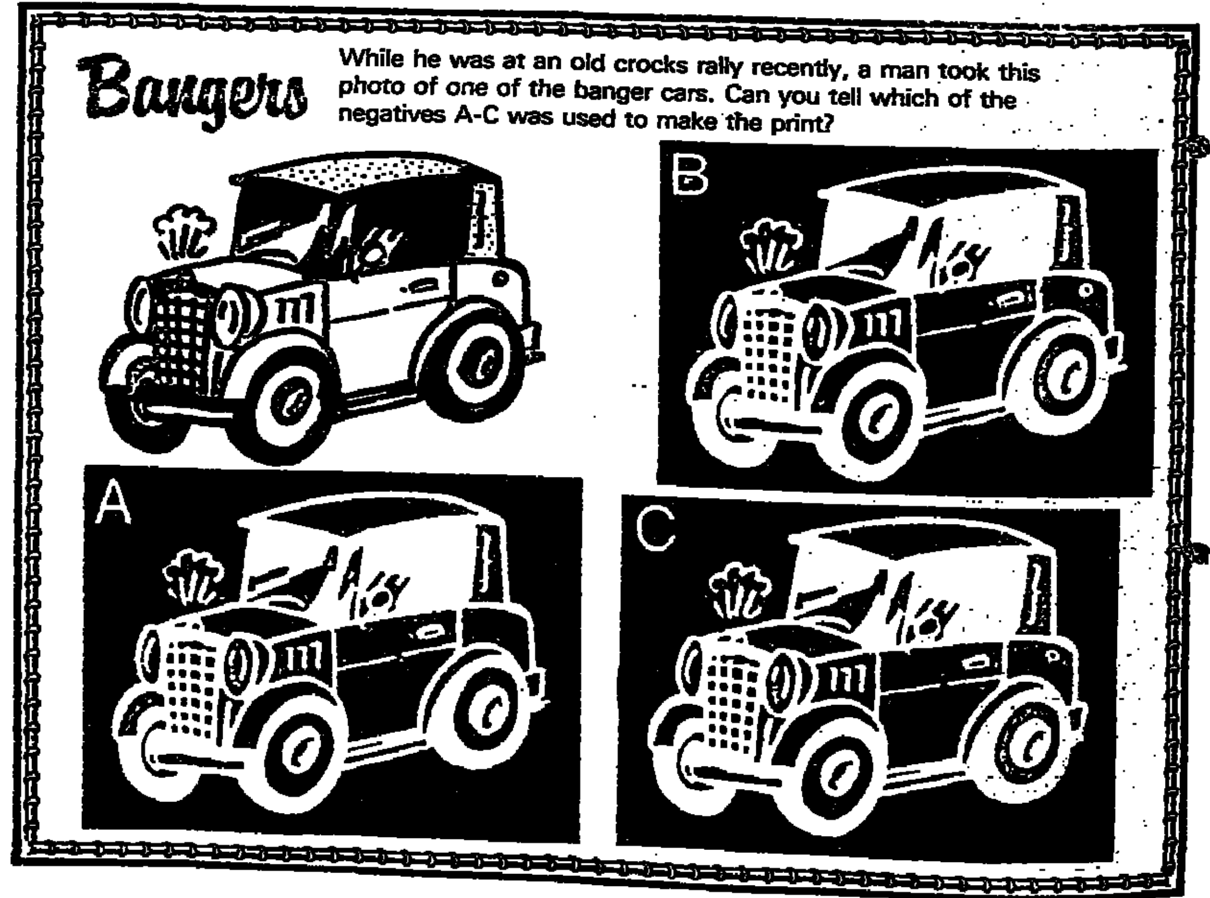


Answers to Last Week's QUICKIE

Across: 8. Contour 9. Ether 10. Melon 11. Moisten 12. Concern 14. Able 17. Mate 18. Linctus 20. Testing 22. Grime 25. Rifle 26. Sterile Down: 1. Scum 2. Anil 3. Pointer 4. Criminologist 5. Begin 6. Whet 7. Princess 12. Cemetery 13. Net 15. Bet 16. Snigger 19. Siren 21. Sofia 23. Iris 24. Even.

Bangers

While he was at an old crocks rally recently, a man took this photo of one of the banger cars. Can you tell which of the negatives A-C was used to make the print?



(Solution Next Thursday)

Feature

The Shoemaker of Jonkers Street

On Jonkers Street, in the old section of the historic city of Malacca, are many shops selling antiques. The Wah Aik Shoemaker shop is unique in that here the old shoemaker makes brand-new but authentic antiques.

Mr. Yeo Sing Guat makes shoes for Chinese ladies with bound feet. He has been doing this for the last 40 of his 60 years. Sitting in the dim light of the interior at his wooden table with its many decades of nicks and scratches, Mr. Yeo is one of, if not the last of, a long line of craftsmen in the dying art of fashioning footwear for bound feet. To understand the demise of his craft, one must first understand the background of this, one of the saddest footnotes (no pun intended) in China's long history.

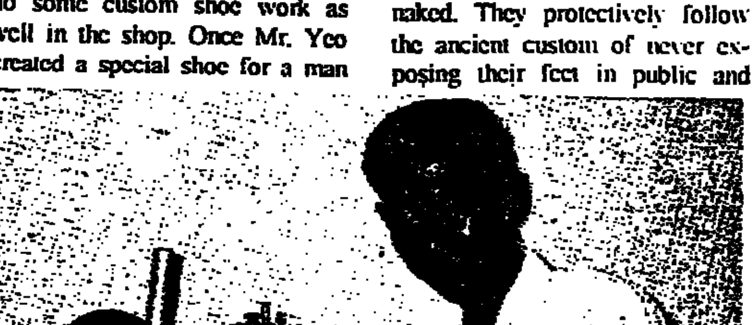
About a thousand years ago, the Chinese began to feel that women who walked daintily were more appealing than those who strode with an ungainly manly gait. There evolved the practice of binding the feet of female children. The practice was proclaimed law during the Ch'ing Dynstry (1644-1912) when the Manchu emperor decreed that every woman of noble birth was to have her feet bound before they were fully formed. Thus it was assured that women of the court would walk without exposing their feet, that they would walk inch by inch throwing their hips out to maintain their balance—much like the women of today do when wearing high heels. The results were considered the epitome of feminine grace.

They donned magnificent embroidered silk costumes for a stroll down the streeet. The headdress worn at their wedding rivalled that of the Manchu emperor himself. The women, especially of Hokkien and Cantonese descent, were fond of the shimmering beaded shoes called *chu*, or pearl shoes. Eventually, the prestigious but heinous practice of binding the feet of their female children was imported into the homes of the wealthy.

In 1912 with the success of the revolution led by Sun Yat Sen (1866-1925), the practice of footbinding was mercifully abolished. Yet, in the 1930s when Mr. Yeo began his apprenticeship to his father, there remained about a thousand women in the Straits Chinese community of Malacca who had their feet bound when they were children.

Mr. Yeo's father came to Malacca in 1918 with only a mat for a bed and an umbrella for shelter to work as a common laborer for $3 a month. He became a coffee shopkeeper's assistant until he met a Hokkien man who taught him the shoe-making trade. He started Wah Aik a decade before Yeo Sing Guat was born.

After completing high school at the age of 18, Mr. Yeo ogan his full apprenticeship as a shoemaker—but not in making the difficult bound-foot shoes. He was first taught to make leather shoes on the wooden moulds that his father had imported from Hong Kong. These irreplaceable antique moulds now fill the teak cabinets that line both sides of the shop and are still used occasionally when Wah Aik does shoe repair. They do some custom shoe work as well in the shop. Once Mr. Yeo created a special shoe for a man whose foot was blown off during World War II.



The shoemaker of Jonkers St.

Next in his training, Mr. Yeo was allowed to work with the shimmering "Pearl Shoes," those beaded shoes so beloved by the Baba Chinese. Minuscule beads called *kasut manik* in the Malay language had to be picked up one by one on the point of a needle and then sewn in an intricate pattern onto a backing of muslin. *Kasut manic* shoes are now antique. The smaller pearl beads are no longer available. So are the embroidered shoes made sixty years ago. The precious gold thread that was used in their creation is no longer available.

Not until he was 20 years old was Mr. Yeo permitted to begin learning the delicate craft of making shoes for women with bound feet. He made his first real pair of shoes for a customer with bound feet only when he was 25 years old.

As the years go by, the number of women living in Malacca who reqire his special skills diminishes. Now there are only ten of them in the town plus one who lives in Penang, another in Ipoh, and one more each in Kuala Lumpur, Muar, and Singapore. Of course they are all in their eighties or nineties now.

They rarely appear in public. Occasionally they can be seen, usually on the sacred first or the fifteenth day of the Chinese lunar months, going to worship at the Cheng Hoon Teng Temple.

Mr. Yeo has never seen, even once, any of these women's feet naked. They protectively follow the ancient custom of never exposing their feet in public and would not be persuaded to expose them even for money.

The shoes are made of Shanghai Hang Chong silk which has brocaded scenes of Chinese houses, flowering trees, men standing at the stern of their boats, etc. One meter of this expensive silk can make only four pairs of shoes. The patterns of the brocade must be matched perfectly from one side of the shoe to the other and from one shoe to the next. Shanghai Hang Chong silk is becoming increasingly more difficult to find. This is because the demand is decreasing as few people are making the authentic shoes in the Mandarin style. Although there are many elderly women in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong with bound feet, few wish to wear what has become a symbol of the decadent Manchu era. Since the communists took over in China, most of these women wear black canvas shoes of the *Kung-fu* style.

What makes the Shanghai Hang Chong silk the ideal material for this kind of shoes is the fact that the colors never fade unless exposed for years to direct sunlight. In addition, the silk is uniquely resistant to attacks from insects. Even cockroaches leave it alone. Finally, the workmanship of the brocade is without peer. A pair of these shoes could easily last a century with only a change of soles.

The brocade comes in four colors—blue, green, black, and red. The last is the most popular especially if the silk has gold brocade in the pattern of the Chinese character for good luck.

Traditionally, the ideal size of the foot was the *son choon chin lian*, or the three-inch Golden Lotus feet. Although none of Yeo's customers who remain alive have feet this small, he still makes them to be sold as souvenirs.

No Chinese Mandarin woman worth her jade would think of buying any shoe not made of Shanghai Hang Chong, the supply of which is dwindling, and Mr. Yeo says he will not sacrifice one iota of authenticity even for a souvenir. Asked why he sells souvenirs of this kind of shoes, he replied. "I want the world to know what was done to these women so that we never ever do anything like this to anyone again." (Courtesy of *Wings of Gold*, May 1991.)



Shanghai Hang Chong silk shoes for bound-feet.

Most of the Chinese who migrated to the Malayan Peninsula during the 19th century were not of noble birth. Their daughters would never have had to go through the pain of foot-binding had their family remained in poverty. However, the immigrants quickly became fabulously wealthy through their work on the, then just beginning, tin mines and rubber plantations.

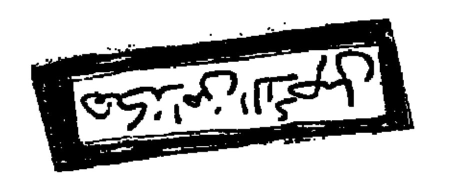
Although their ancestors were of humble birth, these *nouveau riche* began to imitate the Chinese of the higher Mandarin class.







A Golden Lotus shoe rests easily in the palm of one hand

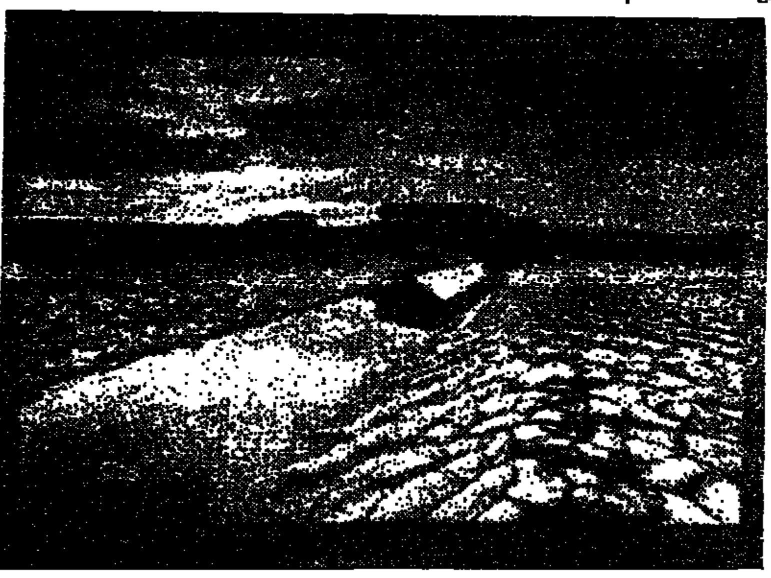


Touring Iran's South in Autumn

Tehran Times Service

Iran, blessed by a diverse geographic and climatic condition, multi-faceted ethnic tribes, colorful cultures and customs, and a rich historical and ancient past is, without exaggeration, one of the exceptionally attractive tourist destinations in the world. Nature in this country is so rich and so full of wonders that even Iranians themselves never seem to have enough of it. No matter where you happen to be in Iran you can journey to the heart of history and observe the historic and eternal sites, along with their archaeological remains. At the same time, you can also experience any season any time of the year.

In the fall, a trip to the southwestern parts of the country is a bonanza you can enjoy with your family. See Lake Bakhtigan near Shiraz and Lake Tashtak near Nayris, the largest lake of Iran, and wonder at their natural beauty. In the fall thousands of beautiful birds crowd those lakes as though the area is carpeted with them. See them during sunrise and sunset and rise in their majestic beauty.



Hirmand River

A little further toward the eastern borders of Iran you will reach Sistan-Baluchistan which is the Nimruz (mid-day) territory of the past and the birthplace of Persian myths like Rustam. Wander along the banks of the Hirmand River and marvel at the sight of water running in a dry area.

Shahr Sukhteh, the "burnt-down city," with a history dating back to the 2nd millenium B.C. is a spectacular sight of ancient times and proof of the arson that was committed then.

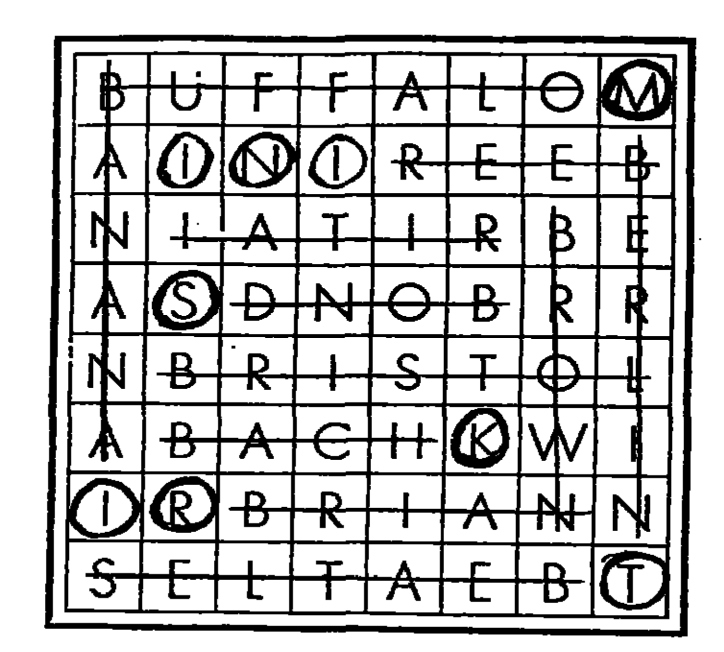
Move to the south and be fascinated by the snow-capped Mount Taftan in the heart of the desert or Kavir. You will also observe how the Baluch people, with a peculiar culture, skillfully make their beautiful handicrafts. Head west from this area and arrive in Kerman, a city with a rich history and collection of archaeological works from various historical periods. The Arg (castle or fortress) in the city of Bam will take you to the heart of history, and the Mausoleum of Shah Nematollah in Mahan City will make you contemplate as though you were gazing at the Buddhist shrines in Tibet.

The desert areas with their national parks are natural beauties. The Bamo National Park, north of Shiraz, covering an area of 100,000 hectares, provides a natural setting. Upside-down tulips, the tear-flower, golden primrose, budding towards the end of winter, present some of the most elegant sights to behold. Springs, watering wildlife at the park, provide a forest atmosphere. Rising 2700 meters above sea level, Mount Bamo is a sight to behold, and visible as far as Shiraz.

Moving westward from Shiraz you will come to Khuzestan Province with its most pleasant weather in winter. The numerous historical and archaeological sites in Shoosh (Susa) and Chogazanbil whose Zigurates convey the message of history will inspire you.

Answers to last week's INITIAL REACTION:

Mystery word: Mini-skirt.



B	U	F	F	A	L	O	M
A	I	N	I	R	E	E	B
N	I	A	T	I	R	B	E
A	S	D	N	O	B	R	R
N	B	R	I	S	T	O	L
A	B	A	C	H	K	W	I
I	R	B	R	I	A	N	N
S	E	L	T	A	E	B	T

TODAY IN HISTORY

1918 - German-Austrian note is sent to United States via Switzerland for World War I armistice.

1929 - Name of Serbo-Croat-Slovene kingdom is changed to Yugoslavia.

1932 - Iraq joins League of Nations as British mandate ends.

1935 - Italian forces invade Ethiopia.

1952 - British test their first atomic bomb off coast of Australia.

1966 - British colony of Basutoland becomes new independent African nation of Lesotho.

1971 - Luna 19, unmanned Soviet spacecraft, goes into orbit around Moon.

1977 - India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is arrested in New Delhi on two charges of corruption while in office.

1987 - Tamil-Sinhalese violence continues in eastern Trincomalee district in Sri Lanka.

1993 - Communist hard-liners capture Moscow mayor's offices.

1994 - Jordan and Israel sign peace agreement at White House.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Abbas Takin

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1969 - China announces two nuclear weapons tests, including hydrogen bomb explosion in atmosphere.

1973 - Peace talks begin in Northern Ireland in attempt to end five years of conflict that has taken almost 900 lives.

1977 - India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is released from police custody less than 24 hours after her arrest on charges of political corruption.

1980 - Islamic representatives from 38 nations move to have UN General Assembly call for Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

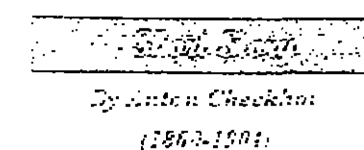
1986 - Fire breaks out in Soviet nuclear-powered submarine carrying ballistic missiles, and three people are reported dead.

1988 - Brazil enacts new constitution, completing long-awaited "transition to democracy."

1993 - Russian Parliament leaders surrender to soldiers loyal to President Boris Yeltsin, at least 300 dead in two days of fighting.

1994 - Undersea earthquake kills at least 16 people in Russia's Kuril islands.

After the Theater



By Anton Chekhov

(1860-1904)

Nadya Zelenina had just returned with her mother from the theater, where they had been to see a performance of "Yevgeny Oniegin." Entering her room, she quickly threw off her dress, loosened her hair, and sat down hurriedly in her petticoat and a white blouse to write a letter in the style of Tatyana.

"I love you," she wrote, "but you don't love me; no, you don't! The moment she had written this, she smiled.

She was only sixteen years old, and so far she had not been in love. She knew that Gorny, the officer, and Gronsdev, the student, loved her; but now, after the theater, she wanted to doubt their love. To be unloved and unhappy — how interesting. There is something beautiful, affecting, romantic in the fact that one loves deeply while the other is indifferent. Oniegen is interesting because he does not love at all, and Tatyane is delightful because she is very much in love; but if they loved each other equally and were happy, they would seem boring, instead.

"Don't go on protesting that you love me," Nadya wrote on, thinking of Gorny, the officer. "I can't believe you. You're very clever, educated, serious; you have a great talent, and perhaps, a splendid future waiting , but I am an uninteresting poor-spirited girl, and you yourself know quite well that I shall only be a drag upon your life. It's true I carried you off your feet, and you thought you had met your ideal in me, but that was a mistake. Already you are asking yourself in despair, "Why did I meet this girl?" Only your kindness prevents you from confessing it."

Nadya pitied herself. She wept and went on.

"If it were not so difficult for me to leave mother and brother I would put on a nun's gown and go where my eyes direct me. You would then be free to love another. If I were to die!"

Through her tears she could not make out what she had written. Brief rainbows trembled on the table, on the floor and the ceiling, as though Nadya were looking through a prism. Impossible to write. She sank back in her chair and began to think Gorny.

Oh, how fascinating, how interesting men are! Nadya remembered the beautiful expression of Gorny's face, appealing, guilty, and tender, when someone discussed music with him — the efforts he made to prevent the passion from sounding in his voice. Passion must be concealed in a society where cold reserve and indifference are the signs of good breeding. And he does try to conceal it, but he does not succeed, and everybody knows quite well that he has a passion for music. Never-ending discussions about music, blundering pronouncements by men who do not understand keep him in incessant tension. He is scared, timid, silent. He plays superbly, as an ardent pianist. If he were not an officer, he would be a famous musician.

The tears dried in her eyes. Nadya remembered how Gorny told her of his love at a symphony concert, and again downstairs by the cloakroom.

"I am so glad you have at last made the acquaintance of the student Gronsdev," she continued to write. "He is a very clever man, and you are sure to love him. Yesterday he was sitting with us till two o'clock in the morning. We were all so happy. I was sorry that you hadn't come to us. He said a lot of remarkable things."

Nadya laid her hands on the table and lowered her head. Her hair covered the letter. She remembered that Gronsdev also loved her, and that he had the same right to her letter as Gorny. Perhaps she had better write to Gronsdev? For no cause, a happiness began to quicken in her breast. At first it was a little one, rolling about in her breast like a rubber ball. Then it grew broader and bigger, and broke forth like a wave. Nadya had already forgotten about Gorny and Gronsdev. Her thoughts became confused. The happiness grew more and more. From her breast it ran into her arms and legs, and it seemed that a light fresh breeze blew over her head, stirring her hair. Her shoulders trembled with quiet laughter. The table and the lampglass trembled. Tears from her eyes splashed the letter. She was powerless to stop her laughter; and to convince herself that she had a reason for it , she hastened to remember something funny.

"What a funny poodle!" she cried, feeling that she was choking with laughter. "What a funny poodle!

She remembered how Gronsdev was playing with Maksim the poodle after tea yesterday; how he told a story afterwards of a very clever poodle who was chasing a crow in the yard. The crow gave him a look and said:

"Oh, you swindler!"

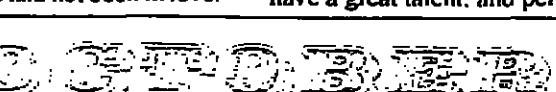
The poodle did not know he had to do with a learned crow. He was terribly confused, and ran away dumfounded. Afterwards he began to bark.

"No, I'd better love Gronsdev," Nadya decided, and tore up the letter.

She began to think of the student, of his love, of her own love, with the result that the thoughts in her head swam apart and she thought about everything, about her mother, the street, the pencil, the piano. She was happy thinking, and found that everything was good, magnificent. Her happiness told her that this was not all; that a little later it would be still better. Soon it will be spring, summer. They will go with mother to Gorbiky in the country. Gorny will come for his holidays. He will walk in the orchard with her, and make love to her. Gronsdev will come too. He will play croquet with her and bowls. He will tell funny, wonderful stories. She passionately longed for the orchard, the darkness the pure sky, the stars. Again her shoulders trembled with laughter and she seemed to awaken to a smell of wormwood in the room; and a branch was tapping at the window.

She went to her bed and sat down. She did not know what to do with her great happiness. It overwhelmed her. She stared at the crucifix which hung at the head of her bed and saying:

"Dear God, dear God, dear God."



October, 10th month of the modern Western year, having 31 days. The name comes from the Latin for eighth, October being the eighth month in the old 10-month calendar. A number of unsuccessful attempts were made by the Romans to rename the month for various emperors. In classical writings it will occasionally be found under one of their names.



A workman pressing grapes in vat symbolizes October in the relief series of the months at Amiens Cathedral, France



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to inform all parties concerned that a major reorganization has taken place in the Ministry of Energy in Iran whereby the implementation of new power generation and transmission projects is within the responsibilities of the newly formed Iran Power Development Co. (IPDC).

We are also responsible for the completion of ongoing projects and conversion of existing gas turbine plants to combined cycle.

These are part of a much wider executive responsibility entrusted to IPDC that used to be performed by TAVANIR.

Iran, as the most populous country in the Middle East with abundant fuel supplies, reasonable infrastructure and a high rate of power demand, offers excellent opportunities to foreign investors, particularly to IPP operators for BOT projects. Other forms of project finance will also be considered.

Favorable local terms and incentives in the form of cheap labor and fuel with necessary guarantees to protect the investment and accommodate easy transfer of proceeds will be provided.

For further details, write to or contact:

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Iran Power Development Co. (IPDC)
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Tel: (9821) 892149 (Direct), 892113, 897175
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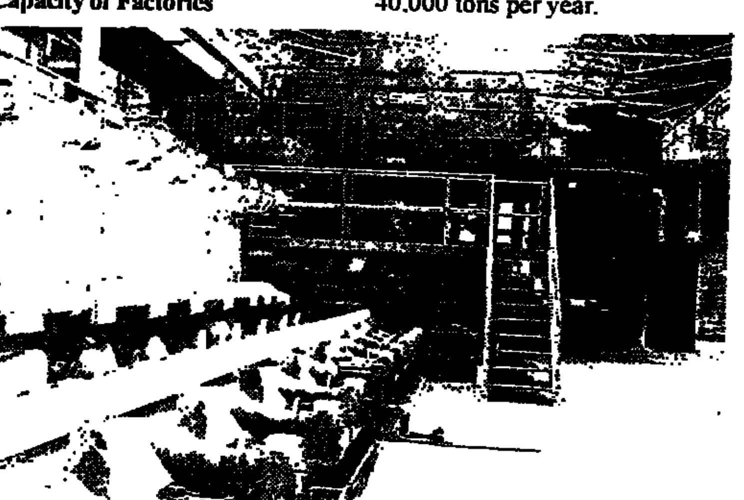
AHWAZ ROLLING & PIPE MILLS CO.

1- History of Establishment

1-1 Foundation of the Company

The factory was founded in Oct.-Nov. 1967 with a capital investment of 320 million rials under the name of Ahwaz Rolling & Pipe Mills Co. It started production in 1971. Today, the company is active with a capital amount of over 30 billion rials in a land area of 900,000 sq.m.

1-2 Types of Products and Capacity of Factories



Rougher

The capacity of the factories in two main categories of pipes and sheets are the following:

1-2-1 Hot Steel Sheets Rolling Factory

It was in May 1971 that the production line of hot steel sheets started its activities to produce steel coils with a width of 280-520mm and diameter of 2-4.85mm with an annual capacity of 140,000 tons. Due to redevelopment and expansion of this production line in 1993, after 22 years of incessant work and a production capacity of 2 million tons of steel coil, started its new phase of activity in 1996 with an annual capacity of 600,000 tons

Increasing the production capacity, providing facilities needed for improvement of products' quality according to International Standards, and obtaining the certificate of International Standards Organization (ISO) are the main objectives of Ahwaz Rolling & Pipe Mills Co.

1-2-2 No. One Pipe Manufacturing Factory

This factory includes two production lines with an annual nominal capacity of 40,000 tons of black pipes with a diameter of 0.5-6 inches. It became operational in Oct. 1996.

1-2-3 No. Two Pipe Manufacturing Factory

This factory became operational in 1986 with an annual nominal capacity of 40,000 tons to produce different types of common black pipes with a diameter of 3/4-4 inches along with gas pipes (API).

1-2-4 Pipe Galvanization Line

This galvanization unit, with an annual production of 15,000, became operational in Oct. 1971. Following installation of the second galvanization boiler, its capacity has been increased to 30,000 tons per year.

1-2-5 Length Cut Line of Steel Sheet Coil No. One

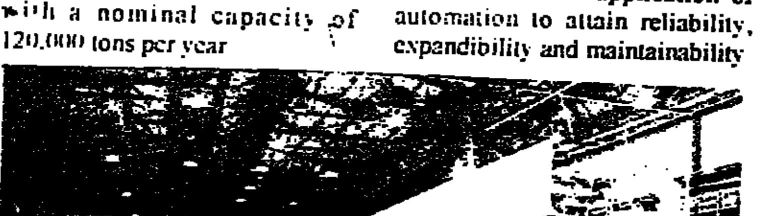
In order to cut steel sheet coil needed for pipe mills' production lines, this line was put on stream in 1971 with a nominal capacity of 40,000 tons per year.

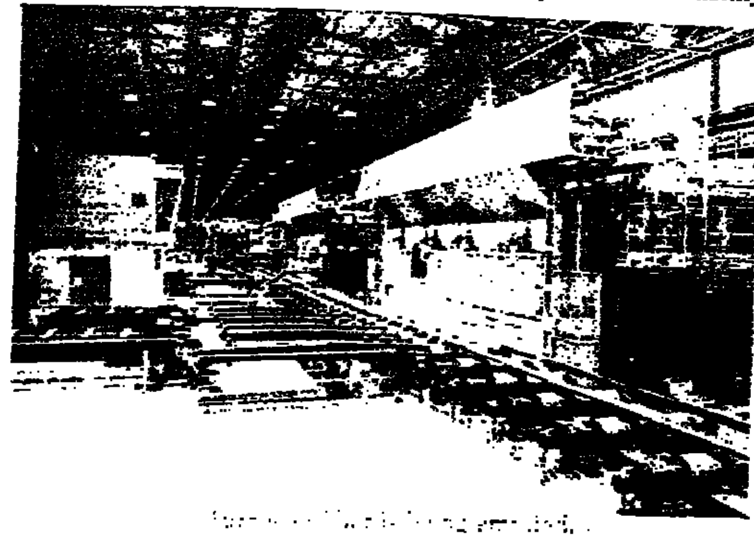
1-2-6 Long Cut Line of Steel Sheet Coil No. Two

This cutting line was created in 1983 to cut steel sheet coil according to the requirements of the pipe mills along with cutting semi-heavy coils with a width of 1.5m and weight of 10 tons.

1-2-7 Steel Sheet Coil Acidworks and Oilworks Unit

Acidworks and Oilworks unit became operational in Nov. 1986 with a nominal capacity of 120,000 tons per year





1-2-8 Chloride Acid Recycle Unit

This unit was set up in Nov. 1986 to recycle used chloride acid in pickle lines of pipe and sheet (washing with acid and oilworks).

1-2-9 Iron-Hoop Cutting Unit

This line, with an annual capacity of 70,000 tons of steel-hoops, 6 & 12 meters long became operational in 1996.

2- Specifications of New Hot Rolling Mill of Steel Sheet Coil

2-1 To increase production five-fold more than before

2-2 Improving quality of the products according to international quality control standards and creation of required facilities for obtaining ISO 9000 certificate requirements.

2-3 Cost reduction and increasing the value added of products (optimization, and economization of production procedures of hot rolling)

2-4 Promotion of hot rolling technological know-how in the fields of electricity, automation, mechanics and installation

2-5 Promotion of manpower technical knowledge by holding training classes inside and outside of the country, dispatching the personnel to attend similar classes in foreign countries, and practical training in the executional sectors of the projects

2-6 Optimized utilization of the existing facilities such as machinery, installation and building of the previous rolling mill

2-7 Flexibility of the production line, and enjoying flexible manufacturing system (FMS) in the production of steel sheet coil used in analyzing and different product qualities

2-8 Utilization of state-of-the-art systems on technical data processing and data terminal management based on creation and operation of facilities to analyze operational parameters in line with the targeted programs, application of production management systems, maintenance and quality assurance

2-9 Meeting the requirements of domestic factories, specially pipe and propyl factories as well as attending international markets

2-10 Massive application of automation to attain reliability, expandibility and maintainability

3- Specifications of Different Products

3-1- Coil of Hot Rolling Sheet

(1) Specifications

(1-1) Kind: Carbon steel consists maximum 4 percent carbon such as construction steels (ST37 according to DIN 17100) and special steels suitable for gas pipes (API 5L)

(1-2) Weight: Maximum 7,200 kg

(1-3) Width: 280 to 600 mm

(1-4) Inner diameter: 600 mm

(1-5) Outer diameter: 1700 mm

(2) Thickness according to DIN 1016

1.5 to 6 with positive and negative tolerance of 0.16 to 0.19 mm

(3) Width according to DIN 1016

From 250 to 600 mm with positive tolerance of 3.6 to 4.2 mm

(4) This sort of sheet coil can be used for propyl, pipe and other industrial products

Final product before carrying to warehouse

3-2- Kinds of Pipes



Kind	Weight (kg/m)		Thickness (mm)	Outer & Inner Diameters (mm)		Nominal Size (inch)
	Gear & Coupling	Without Gear		Minimum	Maximum	
Heavy	21/9-1/45	21/3-1/44	5/4-3/2	164/1-21/1	166/1-21/7	6-0/5
Medium	20/3-1/22	19/7-1/21	5-2/6	164/1-21/1	166/1-21/7	6-0/5
Light	10-0/956	9/75-0/94	3/6-2	113/0-21/0	133/9-21/4	4-0/5

Note: These sorts of pipes are used for transferring water and also construction needs.

Kind	Inner Diameter (mm)	Thickness of Wall (mm)	Weight of Pipe LB/FT	Outer Diameter (mm)	Nominal Size (inch)
API Pipes	102/3-20/9	6-2/9	11-1/14	114/26/7	4-0/75

Note: These sorts of pipes are used for transferring gas and liquids.

4- Company's Future Plans and Programs

The modern management project of Ahwaz Rolling & Pipe Mills enables the company to meet the needs of the country and also participate in international markets and achieve its targeted objectives.

Due to increase of production capacity and facilities provided for improving the quality of products according to international standards leading to achievement of standards of overseas markets, it was found necessary to obtain the certificates and licenses of International Standards Organization (ISO). Also, some essential changes in the company's software structure were needed.

In order to conform the software structure of the company with its giant project, the company took major steps toward better utilization and producing 600,000 tons of hot rolling sheet according to international standards through compiling the project, amending organizational structure and management systems. The main parts of this modern management project which have been based on management methods and techniques of the developed countries and contracted consortium, enables the company to meet the needs of the country and also participate in international markets and achieve its targeted objectives in a secure atmosphere through injecting the markets high-quality products having reasonable prices. It is worth mentioning that the design, installation and execution of the giant software project are carried out by the experts and directors of Ahwaz Rolling & Pipe Mills Co. The project is to be implemented with minimum expense.

The company has succeeded to perform the giant project through spending its total income within the past 3 years.



Room for cooling sheets